

Bomb blast in Algiers kills 17, wounds 61

ALGIERS (AFP) — A bomb explosion ripped through a busy marketplace in Algiers Monday, killing 17 people and wounding 61, security services said.

The attack, one of the worst the capital has seen, broke a period of relative calm in the capital and showed that the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) fighting the government has not lost its power to strike at the capital.

The blast took place at 10:30 a.m. local time in the busy working-class western district of Bab Al Oued, which is often used by illicit street vendors.

The victims included several women and children, sources at the Maillot hospital which treated some of the wounded said. They added that the death toll was likely to rise as some of those hurt succumbed to their injuries in other hospitals.

In the hospital, there were scenes of hysteria as hundreds of worried residents scoured lists of names of those wounded or wandered the corridors looking for family members.

Women stopped passers-by to ask where they might find their husbands, parents or children.

The bomb had been placed in front of an elec-

trical store in a narrow street by a covered market. A visibly shaken store employee described how his 22-year-old colleague at the entrance had been blown to pieces by the blast.

"I was inside, when I fell under a pile of televisions that came tumbling down. The cries made me realise that an attack had just happened. I got up with a lot of difficulty and saw broken bodies lying on the sidewalk."

A police officer explained that patrols tried to keep the illegal vendors out of the market, but in vain. He added that officers checked customers as they walked into the market, but such checks were often treated with contempt. "You see the result," he said.

The bomb went off at a point where a police van had been parked 15 minutes earlier, witnesses said. The last major attack in Algiers was on July 9, when at least 10 people were killed in a bomb blast in a flea-market in the eastern Oued Kniss district.

The bloodshed from Monday's bomb came after armed extremists murdered 10 people in Ain Defla, west of Algiers, Saturday night.

Islamists have also tried

to disrupt Algiers' holiday period as masses of Algerians flocked to beaches after a year of relative calm in the capital. There have been a number of attacks on seaside resorts, causing several injuries but failing to deter bathers.

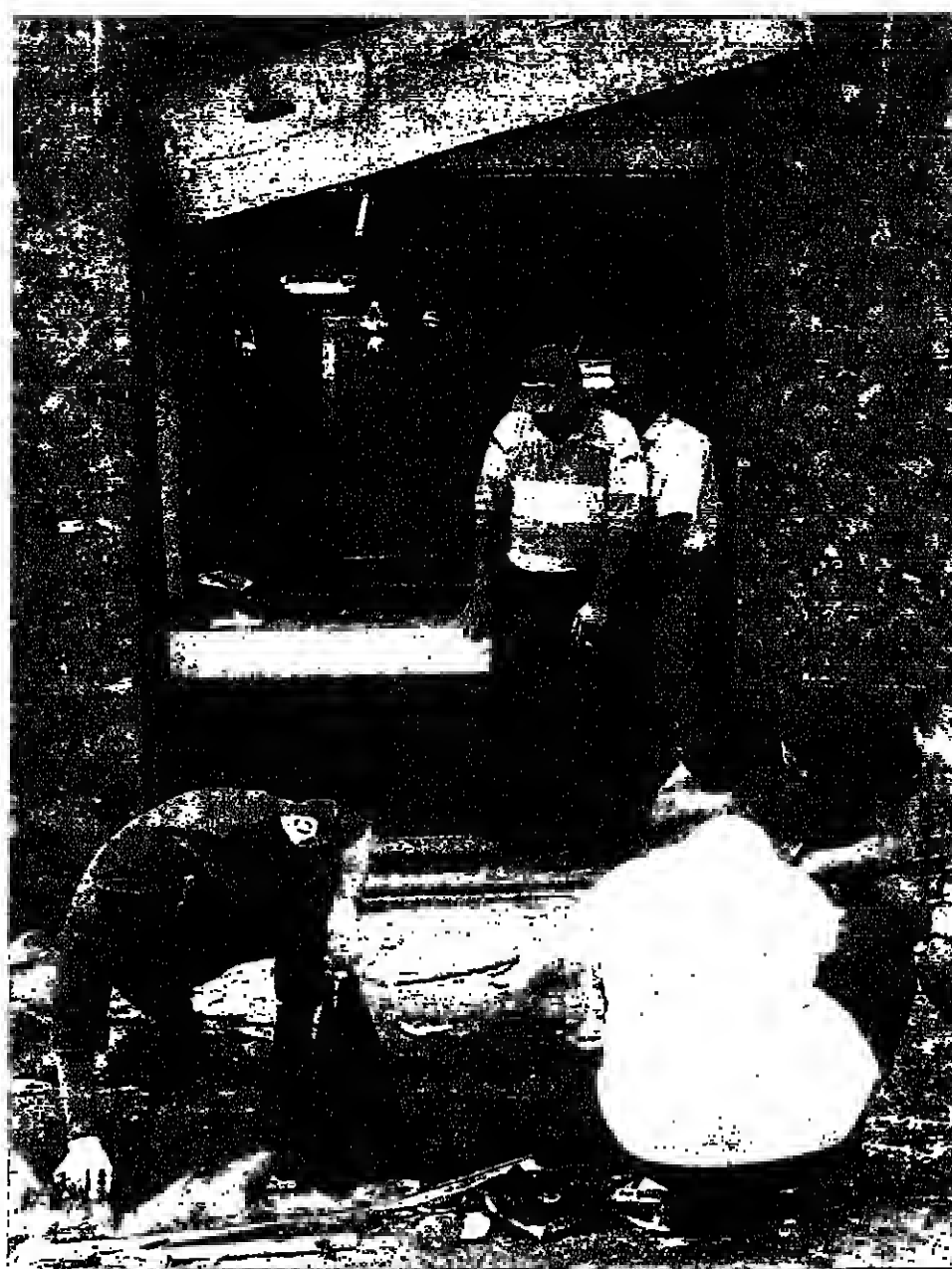
Five teenagers were killed last week in El Biar, one of the most fashionable parts of the capital, when they ventured into a tunnel used by an armed Islamist group as a refuge.

The killing, near the country's main seat of state, proved that the GIA are still capable of striking at the capital despite the killing of its chief by security forces July 9.

Police had been on the trail of Ahmane Khelifi, better known as Hocine Fliche (the Arrow) for his speed, since 1992 before killing him and 10 of his lieutenants in Algiers.

Press reports Monday said security forces also killed three armed extremists in Constantine and the village of Bordj-Menaïel. A home-made bomb also exploded at a spring in Sidi-Ali Cherif, near the western town of Sig, killing a municipal employee and wounding another civilian who had gone there for water, El Khabar newspaper reported.

Residents, security personnel and Red Crescent staff Monday examine the site of a bomb explosion in the working-class western district of Bab Al Oued in the Algerian capital. The bomb explosion ripped through the busy marketplace, killing 17 people and injuring 61 (AFP photo)



Residents, security personnel and Red Crescent staff Monday examine the site of a bomb explosion in the working-class western district of Bab Al Oued in the Algerian capital. The bomb explosion ripped through the busy marketplace, killing 17 people and injuring 61 (AFP photo)

Yilmaz denies gangster suspect worked for Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz, in comments published Monday, denied reports that an alleged leading gangster had carried out undercover work abroad for the state.

Alaattin Cakici, wanted in Turkey for murder and extortion, was detained on the French Riviera on August 17. He was carrying a Turkish diplomatic passport which officials in Ankara say was given to him by a member of the intelligence services.

Yilmaz said Cakici had taken advantage of official contacts to obtain the passport but had no undercover role.

"Cakici did not work for the state. Cakici used the

state, not the other way round," the Hurriyet daily quoted Yilmaz as saying. Other newspapers carried similar quotes.

The Cakici affair has rekindled a scandal over allegations that politicians and security officials used right-wing gangsters to kill political and business opponents.

The scandal first erupted in 1995 when a car carrying a government MP, a police chief and a wanted mobster crashed, exposing official links to the underworld.

Then interior minister Mehmet Agar resigned in the scandal and is now on trial for providing a false gun license and passport to a convicted drug smuggler.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mordechai arrives in China

BEIJING (AFP) — Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai arrived in China Monday, beginning a four-day visit at the invitation of Chinese counterpart Chi Haotian, Xinhua news agency reported. It will be his first trip to China and include not only discussions on possible weapons cooperation programmes but broader talks on security relations and the Middle East peace process, his spokesman said. State television reported that he handed over \$55,000 worth of medicine from Israel's Health Ministry at the airport for flood victims in central China's Hubei province. The Israelis were scheduled to visit Shanghai, Xian, Beijing and navy and army bases.

4 Israeli soldiers injured in accident

TEL AVIV (AP) — Four Israeli military personnel were injured early Monday when their helicopter missed its landing-pad in south Lebanon, hit the ground nearby and overturned, the army spokesman said. The American-manufactured Bell-206 was bringing two soldiers to an Israeli strong point in the strip of land which Israel occupies in south Lebanon to protect its northern border against attacks by Lebanese and Palestinian fighters. The pilot and co-pilot and the two soldiers were injured. One of them suffered medium injuries. The others were lightly injured, a hospital official said.

Woman expelled from south Lebanon

RACHAYA (AFP) — A Lebanese woman was expelled Monday from the Israeli-controlled border zone of south Lebanon after her children were accused of helping guerrillas fighting the occupation, the police said. Salma Hamdan, a 58-year-old resident of the Sunni Muslim village of Shebaa in the border area, was summoned to the headquarters of intelligence services of Israel's allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) in the town of Hasbaya, they said. She was informed of the expulsion decision and immediately taken by SLA militiamen to the Zimraya checkpoint, one of the five passages linking the occupied border zone to the rest of Lebanon, they said. Hamdan's 23-year-old son Maher has been jailed since February in the SLA-run Khiam jail in the border zone after having been accused of smuggling explosive materials into the occupied area.

Khatami to attend Non-Aligned summit

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian President Mohammad Khatami is due to arrive Tuesday in Durban, South Africa, for a meeting between the heads of state of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), officials said. Khatami, scheduled to deliver a speech during the two-day summit, will be making his first appearance abroad at a meeting of international leaders since his election in May 1997. Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi, also taking part in the meeting, arrived in South Africa on Sunday. The 113-member Non-Aligned Movement was formed in 1955. Issues on the agenda for this week's meeting are the proliferation of nuclear weapons, conflicts in the Gulf and Middle East, and the Asian economic crisis.

Iraqi children return from U.S. following treatment

By Ahmed Naser
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two young Iraqi girls who could not obtain medical treatment in their country arrived in Amman Monday from the U.S. where, thanks to several relief organisations, they obtained much needed medical attention.

Seven-year-old Dania Abdul Jabbar — whose parents were killed in a car accident — had four operations for burns to her face and hands, while Isra Abdul Wahab, six, underwent successful open-heart surgery to correct a congenital heart defect.

Both children, who will today make the 14-hour road trip to Baghdad, would not have been able to receive treatment in their sanctions-stricken country's hospitals, where the majority of

operations are conducted without anaesthetic and often with unsterilised equipment.

Dania and Isra were lucky. Only a small number of this region's suffering children receive aid through cooperation between organisations like the Palestine Children's Relief Fund (PCRF), UNRWA, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, the International Relief Association (IRA) and Human Appeal Fund.

So far, the PCRF has managed to secure medical treatment in the U.S. for more than 100 children from the Gaza Strip and refugee camps in Lebanon and Syria, whose residents are in need of specialised medical treatment not readily available to them.

The PCRF was established in 1991 by American journalist Stephen Sosebee, who covered

the Palestinian intifada in the late eighties.

Sosebee started his "non-political" aid work by bringing in volunteer teams of doctors and nurses to the West Bank and Gaza and to refugee camps in Lebanon to help children suffering from burns, eye ailments and congenital heart disorders.

The average cost of treatment for most of these cases is no less than \$60,000, according to Sosebee, and can go up to \$300,000, making the search for aid difficult.

"If we had to pay a penny from our pockets, we would not be able to conduct such work," he said.

Four-year-old Palestinian Nour Ashour's open heart surgery in Toronto took nine months to arrange. Sosebee told the Jordan Times.

Sosebee said that PCRF

hopes to assist more children by the end of the year, adding that eight ophthalmologists are expected to arrive in Gaza early this month to help children there with eye ailments.

Also in September, a delegation of 16 doctors and nurses should arrive at Maqasid Hospital in Jerusalem to treat 35 babies hospitalised with congenital heart defects.

"[T]heir you cannot do relief work in the Middle East without doing something for Iraqi children," Sosebee added, referring to the PCRF's current move to include help for Iraqi children.

Since it started aiding children in Iraq six months ago, the PCRF has managed to coordinate the dispatch of 20 truckloads of food and other shipments of medical supplies to Baghdad.

Somali warlord agrees to end hostilities against Ethiopia

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Somali warlord Hussein Mohammad Aidiid has agreed to end a war of words against Ethiopia and stop supporting armed groups seeking to overthrow the Ethiopian government, press reports said Monday.

The armed groups include the armed Al Itihad Al Islam and the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) in Ethiopia's Somali-populated southeastern region of Ogaden, which is trying to secede from the rest of Ethiopia, the daily Quran and Banadir newspapers reported.

Aidiid also agreed to end the support and sanctuary it gives to Ethiopia's Oromo Liberation Front (OLF).

In return, Ethiopia pledged to end support for Somali warlords opposed to Aidiid, the papers said, quoting top officials in Aidiid's faction here, who contacted his delegation in Addis Ababa.

Aidiid's United Somali Congress/Somali National Alliance (USC/SNA) faction has repeatedly accused Ethiopia of giving military support to his opponents,

including training and arming the Rahaawin Resistance Army (RRA) fighting Aidiid in the Bay and Bakol regions of southwest Somalia.

Banadir also said that Aidiid had agreed to attend a reconvened national reconciliation conference to be attended by all factions in the Ethiopian capital, but did not specify the date.

Aidiid had earlier stuck to a peace agreement signed by Somali factions in Cairo in December which called for the formation of a transitional government, with a parliament and independent judicial system, but which failed to materialise, like previous peace accords.

However, observers in the Somali capital have questioned Aidiid's ability to enforce such major pledges single-handedly as a leader of one faction controlling a limited fiefdom.

RRA spokesman Bashir Mohammad Abdi said the agreement between Ethiopia and Aidiid had nothing to do with the "determined efforts by his clansmen to end Aidiid's occupation of their land."

'Famine threatens east Sudan'

GENEVA (AFP) — Tens of thousands of people in east Sudan are living in precarious conditions after fleeing outbreaks of cross-border shelling from Eritrea, the Red Cross and Red Crescent grouping warned Monday.

More than 36,000 people "are now languishing in pitiful conditions, with little food and in increasingly bad health" in camps in the east of the country, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said.

Some 55,000 people have fled their homes to makeshift camps at sites such as Shambouh on the arid plain beneath the Taka mountains because of the clashes, the federation said in a statement.

"With the world's attention focused on the conflict in southern Sudan, the plight of the population of Shambouh ... has gone unnoticed as hundreds of families have fled the shelling," the federation said.

Most of the displaced people were

threatened by disease and a lack of basic necessities, the Geneva-based organisation said.

The Sudanese Red Cross is providing emergency assistance, but supplies have run low, leaving less than half the needs met, the federation said.

The Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates has stepped in with some 560 tonnes of food aid and shelter materials for 36,000 people and medical supplies to last 40,000 people one month.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 4773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:10 Cartoon — "The Pink Panther"

15:30 Small Talk — "Quiz Show"

16:00 Drama — Neighbours

16:30 Doc. — Life Choices

17:00 Doc. — Royal Blood

18:00 French Programmes

— Les Coeurs Brulés

19:00 — Le Journal

19:15 French Programme

— Fractales

19:30 News headlines

19:35 Step by Step — "Forever Young"

20:00 What Would You Do?

20:30 Encounter

21:10 Mini-series — An Independent Man (Ep. 5)

22:00 News in English

22:30 Feature film — "Do You Remember Love?"

23:59 Metro Cafe

23:59 End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:45 Fajr

06:05 (Sunrise) Duha

12:36 Dhuhur

16:12 Asr

19:06 Maghreb

20:26 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Swiffeth, Tel. 5920740

Assemblies of God Church Tel. 4632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 4622366

Anglican Church Tel. 4624853/4624811

St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 4771751

Amman International Church Tel. 5865897

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688404

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 5811295

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932

St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440

Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138

Church of Presentation, Sweifeth Tel. 5920146

The United Catholic Church Tel. 4624757

The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190

Evangelical Free Church Tel. 4892679

The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052

The Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 4771331

The American Orthodox Church Tel. 4775261

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Relative hot weather conditions will persist with temperatures dipping slightly but remaining above average by 3 degrees centigrade, and winds westerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, it will be relatively hot, winds northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman 22/35

Aqaba 28/39

Deserts 18/37

Jordan Valley 26/38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 37, Aqaba 40

Humidity readings: Amman 16 per cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.

Following are the highest temperatures expected today in the following areas:

Ajloun 27

Jerash 32

Umm Qays 33

Madaba 31

Petra 34

Dead Sea 37

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Abbas Hakim 4885446

Dr. Arafat Ashhab 5602507

Dr. Jamal Jharah 5347351

Dr. Ayman Muhtaseb 4875748

Al Asema pharmacy 4637055

Al Salam pharmacy 4636730

Shmeisani pharmacy 4637660

Nairoukh pharmacy 4623672

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qam 281484

Al Quds pharmacy 4637660

ZARQA:

Dr. Youssef Abu Sa'd 988000

Khalifeh pharmacy 585417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 4637111

Civil Defence Department 5661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 4630341

Rescue Police 192 4621111

4637777

Fire Brigade 4617101

Black Bank 4773121

Highway Police 5343402

Traffic Police 4896390

Public Security Dept. 4630321

Price Complaints 5661176

Water & Sewerage Complaints 489467

Amman Municipality Complaints 4787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 4623101

Abdali Tel. Repairs 5661101

Jordan Television 4773111

Radio Jordan 4774111

Water Authority 5680100

J. Electricity Authority 5815615

Electric Power Co. 4636381

RJ Flight Information 44-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 44-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

The Amn Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5922117

The Islamic Abdi 5996117

Hussain Medical Centre Tel. 5856856

Luzmila 4630195

Khalidi Maternity 4642816

Akikh Maternity 4642412

Jabal Amman Maternity 4642162

Mahlas J. Amman 4636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 5667071

Shmeisani Hospital 5669131

University Hospital 5353444

Al-Muasher Hospital 5672279

Al-Ahli, Abdi 5641646

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 4771013

Al-Bashir 4775111/26

Army, Marka 4891611/5

Queen Alia Hospital 5612340/0

Amal Hospital 5674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09983323

Zarqa National Hospital 0990

Home News

Amman court to review former Water Minister Haddadin's appeal

By Ahmad Khatib
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Amman Peace Court will meet on Sept. 13 to consider an appeal by former Water Minister Munther Haddadin contesting its right to try ministers.

The court held its first meeting on Sunday to look into a lawsuit filed by the National Society for Consumer Protection (NSCP) against Haddadin and other officials in connection with the eight-week-old water

contamination crisis.

While Haddadin's attorney Bassam Haddadin contended that the court is not empowered to try ministers, NSCP attorney Mahmoud Kilani said the court has the authority to try ministers after they resign.

According to the Constitution, ministers are tried by a higher council for any alleged crimes committed while in office but only after an indictment by a two-thirds majority of the Lower House of Parliament.

The higher council consists of the Senate president as head of the council, three senators appointed by the Upper House and five judges from the highest court of the land.

The NSCP filed a suit several weeks ago against Haddadin, Munther Khleifat, secretary general of the Water Ministry, Mohammad Abu Taha, head of the Zai Water Treatment Plant, and Adnan Abbas, secretary general of the Health Ministry, as well as other officials.

The accusations include negligence and supplying drinking water that does not meet Jordan's standards for human consumption.

Except for Haddadin, who cited constitutional protection, all other defendants pleaded not guilty in the court.

"We believe that our judiciary system has always been objective and fair," said Mohammad Obeidat, head of the NSCP. "We cannot comment further because the issue is now before the court."

Jordan, Spain sign agreement to continue work at citadel

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Spain Monday signed an agreement to continue the excavation and restoration project of the Umayyad monuments at the Amman Citadel.

Under the agreement, signed by Tourism and Antiquities Minister Akel Biltaji and the Spanish chargé d'affaires, Francisco Aguilera, the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI) will provide \$260,000 to cover the cost of the one-year third phase of the project, which began in the early 1990s.

According to an official at the Spanish embassy in Amman, the first two phases of work at the ancient Citadel site were conducted under the supervision of professor Antonio Almog, who will also take charge of the third phase.

He said the first phase entailed the restoration of the Umayyad Palace and was completed in 1994, while the second concluded in 1996 with the rehabilitation of the Audience Hall.

Man in custody over sister's shooting death

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The authorities are questioning a man in connection with the shooting death of his 26-year-old married sister in Jiza town, near Queen Alia International Airport, official sources said Monday.

The suspect, who was not identified by the authorities, turned himself in to police on Sunday shortly after shooting his sister, Abia Mohammad, in the Qastal village of Jiza, the source said.

instantly. According to the source, the suspect told interrogators that he shot his sister because of her suspected immoral behaviour.

Police contacted by the Jordan Times on Monday evening confirmed the incident but refused to comment and said they were investigating the case.

Abia became the 15th woman reportedly killed in the Kingdom in a "crime of honour" since the beginning of the year.

More than 230 women have been killed in Jordan for the same reason over the past decade, according to Public Security Department figures.



ADMINISTRATORS DISCUSS COOPERATION: The acting president of the University of Jordan, Walid Ma'ani, Monday meets with Hideo Sato, first advisor to the president of the United Nations University (UNU), who was recently appointed as acting president of the International Leadership Academy in Jordan. Ma'ani and Sato discussed cooperation between the two universities in scientific, cultural and academic fields (University of Jordan photo)

Minister refutes reports of fight in correctional facility

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Interior Minister Nayef Qadi Monday refuted earlier press reports that a fight last week among detainees in a Zarqa correctional facility resulted in no injuries or property damage.

"Several inmates injured themselves with razor blades, but the prison authorities managed to control the situation with extreme caution," the minister said.

On Saturday, Zarqa officials confirmed the incident, which took place in the Beirra Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre, but denied earlier reports of injured inmates or property damage, describing those reports as "exaggerated."

They added that the brawl resulted only in a broken glass panel. "The detainees had some demands and they resorted to these acts to express their concerns, and we in turn acted immediately by forming an investigation committee to look into the incident and study their demands," Qadi said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince visits Wihdat camp

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Prince Ali Ben Hussein on Monday toured an UNRWA women's programme centre in the Wihdat Refugee Camp. He also called at the Wihdat Sports Club, where he was received by the club's President Fahd Bayyari, who presented the Prince with the club's shield.

Tarawneh receives Sudanese minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh Monday received Sudanese Minister of Culture and Information Ghazi Salahuddin, who arrived here yesterday to hold talks with senior Jordanian officials. Tarawneh and Salahuddin reviewed bilateral relations in various fields, particularly trade.

Meetings to discuss report on international convention

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan National Committee for Women in cooperation with UNICEF will hold a series of specialised meetings from Sept. 1-5 to discuss Jordan's draft report on the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), a UNICEF statement said Monday. The meeting aims to discuss and finalise Jordan's report on the CEDAW in preparation for its submission to the CEDAW Committee in mid-September. Jordan signed the CEDAW in 1980 and ratified it in 1992, entering reservations on articles relating to Nationality Law, Equality in Legal and Civil Responsibility and Marriage and Family Relations. For this purpose, UNICEF has invited Azza Soliman, president of the Egyptian Women's Legal Centre, and an expert on women's rights, who participated in preparing Egypt's report on the CEDAW, the statement said. The first in the series of meetings will be held today. The draft Jordanian report on the CEDAW will be discussed with the judiciary. The second meeting will be held on Thursday. Representatives of inter-governmental organisations will discuss the report. The last meeting on Saturday will be dedicated to discussing the report with NGO representatives, added the statement.

What's Going On

DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER 98 FESTIVAL

"Summer 98" cultural activities at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, to last until Sept. 30, include:

CONCERT
* Classical concert by the National Music Conservatory Group at 8:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* 50 years of graphic art from Lebanon and works by Jordanian artist Sahel Hiri at the Main House.
* Works by Iraqi artist Samer Usama and by Jordanian artist Said Haddadin at the Blue House.
* Installation works by Jordanian artist Samia Zaru at the Byzantine Church.
* Exhibition of photographs "Memory of a Place" by Jordanian artist Hussein Da'sh at the Museum.

CONCERT

* Concert by the National Band of Circassian Folklore at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m. (daily until Sept. 4).

EXHIBITIONS

* Paintings by Rula Shukairy at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Amman, until Sept. 30.
* Exhibition of wrought iron furniture by Jordanian artist Salim Al Bandak at Al Baidar Hall, Kan Zaman village (Tel. 5862531), until Sept. 17.

Two students released following five-day detention

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two University of Jordan students were released on Monday following five days of detention at the Public Security Directorate on charges of lese majeste.

Al Harith Fakhri Issa, chairperson of the university's Students' Council, and Khalid Abdul Jabbar Sanoubar, a fellow council member, were the two students released.

Issa told the Jordan Times that intelligence agents interrogated him about his university activities and a speech he gave Tuesday at a rally at the Professional Associations Complex.

He said police arrived at his home in Jabal Taj on Wednesday night with an "arrest warrant bearing the charges of lese majeste" following the speech at the

pro-Sudan rally.

The rally, organised by political parties and professional unions, was to show "solidarity" with Sudan after the U.S. bombing of a pharmaceutical plant in Khartoum earlier this month.

"The speech I gave at the rally contained no statements against the government or anybody. It was merely to show our support to our Sudanese brethren and to denounce the U.S. attack," Issa said.

"The interrogation at the GID did not focus on the rally itself but on my university activities. They [GID officers] were gentle and I was not harmed," he added.

"I think the case is over and we are free again. I hope it will be the end," Issa said.

The student said he was not aware of Sanoubar's

arrest. "He had nothing to do with the speech I delivered. I was shocked to learn that he was arrested."

Also on Monday, police prevented dozens of University of Jordan students from staging a sit-in near the Prime Ministry to protest the detention of Issa and Sanoubar.

At the time of the sit-in, the students were not aware that Issa and Sanoubar had already been released.

Plainclothes and anti-riot police armed with tear gas and batons ordered the protesters to leave the site.

One student protester, who asked not to be named, said the purpose of their protest was to deliver a message to Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh urging the release of their colleagues.

Following the unsuccessful 30-minute protest, the students dispersed peacefully.

U.S. announces immigrant visa lottery

AMMAN (J.T.) — The U.S. government has announced the annual diversity immigrant visa lottery programme DV-2000 under which a specific number of permanent resident visas will be awarded in the year 2000 to eligible persons from areas of the world that have low immigration rates, a U.S. Information Service (USIS) statement said.

The visas awarded to winners in the lottery will be apportioned among six geographic regions in the world.

Jordanians are eligible to apply for immigrant visas under this programme.

Applications will be chosen at random by computer and winners only will be notified. The notifications will be sent by mail between April and July 1999 to the address listed on their entry. After being notified, winners will be eligible to apply for immigrant visas at the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. The usual criteria for granting immigrant visas will apply, the statement added.

For more detailed information on how to apply, instruction sheets (in English and Arabic) on this programme will be distributed at the front gate of the U.S. embassy in Amman beginning Sept. 2 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The application period this year will run from Oct. 1 to Oct. 31.

The statement requested that prospective applicants not call the American embassy in Amman regarding the Diversity Immigration Visa Programme.

From school bus to passenger bus — child labour in Zarqa

By Yousef Raffi'a
Special to the Jordan Times

ZARQA — A stark example of the worldwide problem of child labour can be seen in the number of children working as conductors on buses in Zarqa, Jordan's second largest city.

A number of children aged 13-16 can be found collecting fares from passengers on mini-buses for more than 16 hours per day to earn often around JD3.

This situation reflects the findings of a study made public last month which pointed out that poverty and diminishing social and economic returns from education were the main reasons behind child labour in Jordan.

The study, conducted by the Research and Database Unit at the National Task Force for Children (NTFC), revealed that child labour was rampant among children living in pockets of poverty and refugee camps in the cities of Amman, Zarqa and Jerash.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO), which sponsored the study in conjunction with the Labour Ministry, defines child labour as "work which is detrimental to the physical, psychological and intellectual well-being of the child."

Such a definition applies to the children working as conductors on Zarqa buses who were driven to the job at an early age by poverty and, in many

cases, their own parents. One case is 13-year-old Ahmad, who dropped out of school to take up a job as a bus conductor that requires him to leave his house at five in the morning and allows him to return only at 11 at night.

"I don't regret dropping out of the fourth grade, because I used to face the cruel treatment of teachers who could not make me understand anything of what they taught," said Ahmad.

"I didn't study my lessons, and my teacher and my father used to beat me. But now I am like a grown man, bringing JD3 home every evening with the blessing of my parents," he added.

Another example is 14-year-old Khalid, whose father made him drop

out to take the job of bus conductor. He also earns JD3 for a 16-hour work day. Khalid said he was doing well at school. "I liked some of the lessons, especially science, and I had hoped one day to study medicine."

One bus driver, Abu Yazan, said he does not approve of children working as bus conductors. "The bus needs a mature man who knows how to deal with passengers and who can endure this difficult job, stay late and come early to work as required," he said.

"In addition, employing children to work on buses is illegal and can get drivers into trouble with the police."

But other drivers contended that it is better for children who drop out of school to work on buses than loiter on

streets or in cafes all day, since the work guarantees a "decent living" for them.

Some drivers also said they preferred children as employees because they are more tractable than adults and can be paid less.

But one young bus conductor, 15-year-old Thiyab, said he was happy with his job and hoped one day to become a bus driver, a job he believed will bring him satisfaction and a better status in the community.

Thiyab admitted that his family faces difficult circumstances. He said that his father works at a factory earning only JD70 a month and that he must work to help his brothers and sisters.

BRIEF

ina

defence Minister Nizhal day, beginning a tour of the government MP, a police chief and a wanted inmate rushed, exposing official links to the underworld. Then interior minister Mehmet Agar resigned in a scandal and is now a criminal for providing a false license and passport to an convicted drug smuggler.

in accident

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Chernomyrdin urges deputies to confirm him in office

MOSCOW (AFP) — Interim premier Viktor Chernomyrdin urged deputies Monday to confirm him in office, saying any delay would prevent the country from emerging from an unprecedented political and economic crisis.

In a 15-minute speech to a confirmation hearing in the state Duma lower house of parliament, Chernomyrdin said: "We can no longer let this process continue. We cannot leave Russia without a government in this situation."

"Within these last few days, much time has been wasted," he said, adding, "I want to stress there is no time for talk. The situation remains critical today."

Chernomyrdin also criticised the outgoing government, distancing himself from the de facto ruble devaluation and debt freeze two weeks ago which has sent financial markets plunging ever deeper into the abyss.

"The old government did make some mistakes," Chernomyrdin told a confirmation hearing in the state Duma lower house of parliament in reference to the cabinet he led until he was removed from office in

March.

"But I did not declare a devaluation and a moratorium on state debt," Chernomyrdin said, referring to moves by ex-Premier Sergei Kiriyenko which left Russia's young banking system on the brink of collapse.

He told deputies that the new government "must do all it can to maintain the banking system in Russia."

"We must make sure that people's investments do not pay for certain people's mistakes," he added.

The ruble has been in freefall since the central bank gave up defending the Russian currency at its old peg of 6.2 to the dollar.

The Aug. 17 decision was accompanied by a freeze of some 250 billion rubles (\$31.6 billion at current

fixing of 7.905) of domestic debt, a move which triggered a full-blown bank liquidity crisis and threatened to drag the entire Russian economy under.

The debt freeze forced banks to offload share holdings in a desperate search for ready money, sending stock prices plummeting.

Setting out his priorities, Chernomyrdin, recalled eight days ago as premier just five months after his

abrupt sacking by President Boris Yeltsin, said: "Our main task is to minimise our general losses from the current situation."

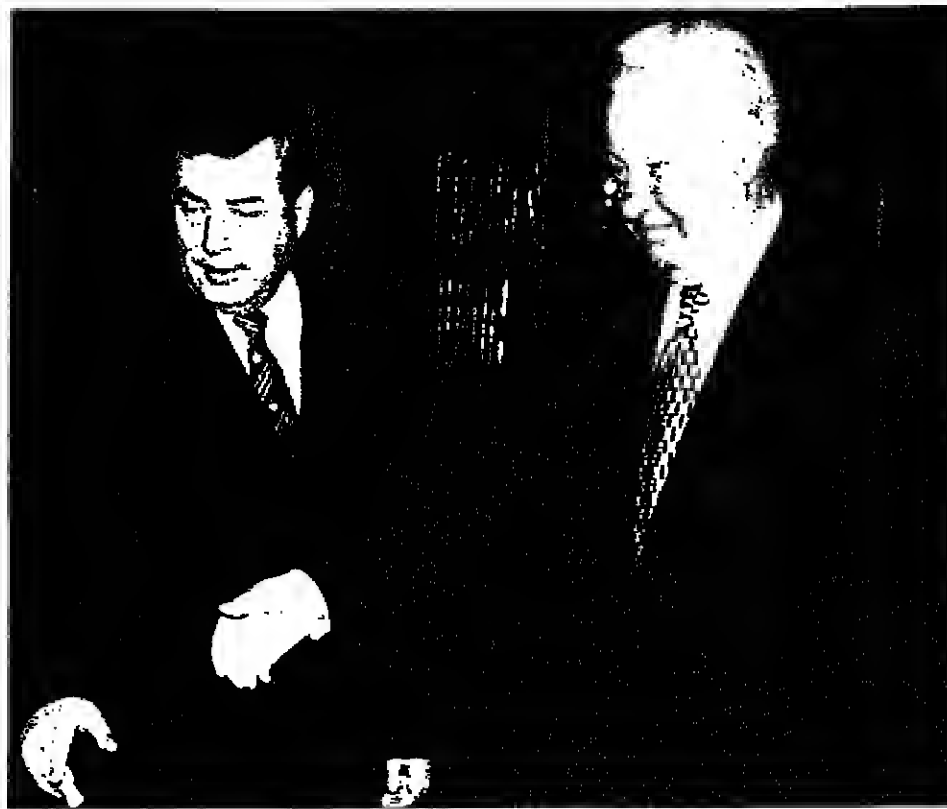
"Today's priorities are people's deposits, the ruble rate, payment of pensions, and wages... and industrial enterprises," he said.

Chernomyrdin's confirmation was thrown into doubt after the Communist Party, the biggest bloc in the Duma, said it would oppose the acting premier despite a political accord reached at the weekend.

The balance of forces in the chamber swung against Yeltsin's candidate after Yeltsin refused to sign an accord which would trim some presidential powers in favour of parliament and the government.

The agreement would give parliament a greater say over the makeup of the Russian cabinet and includes an assurance from Yeltsin that he will not move to dissolve parliament until its term expires in December 1999.

The Communists and other opposition forces have also scoffed at the deal, saying it is not concrete enough and could easily be overlooked by Yeltsin once Chernomyrdin is confirmed.



Russian President Boris Yeltsin (right) invites State Duma speaker Gennady Seleznev for talks in the Kremlin. The state Duma, Russia's lower house of parliament, began a session Monday at which it was due to debate the confirmation of Viktor Chernomyrdin as prime minister (Reuters photo)

Opposition shifts tactics as Hun Sen pledges no violence

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — Strongman Hun Sen pledged Monday not to use violence against thousands of demonstrators staging a round-the-clock vigil for the past week demanding his ouster.

But Hun Sen vowed he would not step down and insisted he would rule the country as the sole prime minister following his declared victory in parliamentary elections July 26.

The stage was set for more turmoil when the Constitutional Council, the country's highest appeals body and stacked with Hun Sen's supporters, rejected all opposition complaints of electoral fraud Monday.

Opposition leader Sam Rainsy condemned the ruling, noting that the council had ignored requests to delay its decision by one day and that opposition representatives were not present.

"We have no other alternative than to express our frustrations through demonstrations," Sam Rainsy said at a news conference.

Significantly, Sam Rainsy indicated that the opposition was also ready to give up plans to boycott the National Assembly when it convenes Sept. 24. The opposition will control enough votes to deny Hun Sen the two-thirds majority needed to form a government.

Hun Sen's cash-strapped administration will find itself in a crunch unless it meets some opposition demands, Sam Rainsy said.

Hun Sen told reporters

following a two-hour meeting with the U.N. special representative in Cambodia, Lakhan Mehtrotra, that the opposition was trying to provoke a violent response through the demonstrations, apparently to undermine his international standing. Security forces have been ordered not to use violence as long as the demonstrations stay peaceful, Hun Sen said.

"There won't be any response by arms from the part of the government," Hun Sen said. "If they can do it peacefully, no problem if it goes on for three months, six months or even one year."

Sam Rainsy later scoffed: "I don't think Hun Sen will be in power in three to six months. In a matter of days and weeks, we will hopefully break the present political deadlock."

Earlier, King Norodom Sihanouk urged dialogue to end the protests, which he said were bringing shame to the nation. The demonstrations, unprecedented in size and duration, have turned a park outside the National Assembly into a tent city at times swarming with as many as 15,000 people.

They are demanding that Hun Sen step down and that opposition complaints of massive fraud by the ruling Cambodian People's Party in the elections be properly investigated.

The opposition leaders, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the king's son, and Sam Rainsy have demanded that a formula giving the CPP a majority

of 64 of the 122 National Assembly seats with just 41 per cent of the vote be modified.

International observers gave the polls a generally credible bill of health, but issued their assessments well before counting — which took 10 days — was completed.

The protest showed the first sign of turning violent Sunday, when about a dozen people tried to destroy a Vietnamese soldier depicted in a Vietnam-Cambodian friendship statue in the park.

In Hanoi, the Communist Party newspaper Nhan Dan reported Monday that Vietnam has strongly denounced the attack, branding it shameful and contemptible.

Suspicion and hatred of Vietnam, Cambodia's historic enemy, runs deep. Though Vietnamese troops toppled the genocidal Khmer Rouge in 1979, a harsh, decade-long occupation followed.

Hun Sen rose to power under the occupation and is regarded by many of his countrymen as too pro-Hanoi. But he remains Cambodia's most powerful politician, topping the Ranariddh as co-prime minister in a bloody coup last year.

Sihanouk claimed in a fax that the non-violent rallies have led the international community "to strongly scorn us and to lose any intention to help Cambodia any more."

The result can only be more misery for the poverty-stricken nation, Sihanouk said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kohl talks to Clinton, Yeltsin, Blair on Kosovo

BONN (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl spoke to world leaders at the weekend about the situation in Kosovo and called for increasing the pressure on Yugoslav leaders, the German government said Monday. Government spokesman Otto Hauser said the chancellor had spoken to U.S. President Bill Clinton, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and British Prime Minister Tony Blair by telephone. "The chancellor emphasised the need to strengthen the pressure on the conflicting parties, especially the Yugoslavian leadership, together with our EU and NATO partners," Hauser said in a statement. The statement dealt mainly with Russia's economic crisis but Hauser said the Kosovo situation had also been an important issue in the chancellor's discussions with other world leaders. Kohl said that, with winter approaching, everything possible must be done to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe in the southern Serb province, where government authorities and ethnic Albanian separatists are locked in conflict.

Masood forces recapture northern base from Taliban

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Troops loyal to Afghan opposition commander Ahmad Shah Masood Monday reclaimed a northern base they lost only a day before to the Taliban, the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) reported. The Nejrab pass in the province of Kapisa was retaken by Masood's forces after severe fighting, the Pakistan-based private information service said. It is located around 100 kilometres northeast of the Afghan capital Kabul and is close to Masood-held Bagram air base. AIP quoted a Taliban source as saying the Islamic militia had retreated from the area "temporarily." AIP said the opposition sources claimed to have killed 50 Taliban in the fighting. No independent confirmation of the report was available. Nejrab was lost by Masood Sunday when the Taliban militia smashed through the frontlines. Masood, whose own headquarters is in the nearby Panjshir valley, is allied with forces of a northern alliance grouping ethnic Uzbek general Abdul Rashid Dostam, ousted Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani and the Shiite Hezb-i-Wahdat. The hardline Islamic militia which seized Kabul two years ago now holds more than two-thirds of Afghanistan. It routed the opposition from its main stronghold of Mazar-i-Sharif on Aug. 8. Since then it has overrun a number of vital towns in northern Afghanistan.

I'm no saint but I'm not guilty, Andreotti says

ROME (R) — Giulio Andreotti, a devout Roman Catholic who was Italian prime minister seven times, said in an interview published Monday that he was no saint but nor was he guilty of the Mafia charges for which he is on trial. "I don't consider myself someone virtuous," Andreotti, 79, told Corriere della Sera newspaper. "But relations with the Mafia and the Pecorelli crime are not among my sins, for sure." The life senator, who goes to mass every day, is standing trial in the Sicilian capital Palermo on charges of protecting the Mafia in his long political career. In a separate trial in the central city of Perugia, he is accused of complicity in the 1979 murder of scandal-mongering journalist Mino Pecorelli whom prosecutors allege was gunned down by the Mafia as a favour to Andreotti. "These are accusations that weigh heavily on me," Andreotti said. "I hope to live long enough to get rid of them... As we're talking about Hell, I think we'll need an extra dose of divine mercy so that those who got me into this mess don't go there." Andreotti said he was referring to the Mafia turncoats who have claimed his guilt. One leading turncoat, Balduccio di Maggio, has insisted Andreotti exchanged a kiss of honour with Mafia boss of bosses Salvatore Riina in 1987.

Gunmen kill editor in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Gunmen killed a newspaper editor with a barrage of machine gun fire as he was riding home in a rickshaw in a western Bangladesh city, an official said Monday. No one claimed responsibility for Sunday's assassination. But Saiful Alam's Bengali-language daily, The Runner, had recently published a series denouncing the outlawed Maoist guerrillas operating near his town of Jessore, 128 kilometres west of Dhaka. Alam died on way to hospital, the area's government administrator Abdul Malek said in a telephone interview. The unidentified gunmen escaped. Police did not immediately link the killing to the paper's campaign. The Maoists advocate armed revolution to overthrow the democratic system established in this predominantly Muslim country in 1991 after years of military-backed autocracy.

Swiss AIDS cases decline due to viral treatment

BERN (AFP) — The number of new AIDS cases in Switzerland continued to fall this year mainly because of effective viral treatments, the federal health authorities said Monday. During the first seven months of the year, there were 272 new AIDS cases — 199 men and 73 women were diagnosed with the virus. The number of new AIDS cases reached a peak of 737 in 1995 and has been declining since, the federal public health office said. Viral medication administered during the HIV infection stage is the biggest single factor behind the decline, the health office said. Some 6,369 people in Switzerland have contracted AIDS since 1983, out of which 4,740 have died. Swiss health authorities estimate there are about 700 new cases of HIV infection, which causes the AIDS virus, each year. Rates of infection through intravenous drug injection have consistently fallen, accounting in 1998 for just over 12 per cent of new male cases from 47 per cent 10 years ago and 7.5 per cent for women, compared with 57.6 per cent. Heterosexual contact has become the main channel for transmission of the AIDS virus among women. For men, infection is predominantly through homosexual contact.

Runaway balloon drifts into Russia from Norway

OSLO (R) — A rogue weather balloon from Canada drifted into Russian airspace from Norway Monday in spite of efforts by planes from three countries to shoot it down, Norwegian aviation authorities said. The balloon, as tall as a 25-storey building and regarded as a hazard to air traffic, entered Russian airspace about 7 a.m. (0500 GMT) over the Barents Sea just north of the Arctic island of Spitzbergen. The balloon entered Norwegian airspace at around 10 p.m. (2000 GMT) last night passing south of Bear Island and moved into Russian airspace at seven o'clock this morning. Stein Erik Finneviden, supervisor at the Bodoe air traffic control centre, told Reuters. "It is moving in a constant northeasterly direction at between 8,230 to 11,280 metres," he said. The balloon would cover an area equivalent to five soccer pitches if deflated. The unmanned, 100-metre high balloon has travelled across the North Atlantic over Iceland and Norway. It went out of control after being launched on Aug. 24 in the western Canadian province of Saskatchewan to measure ozone levels.

Myanmar military warns opposition against unrest

YANGON (R) — Myanmar's military government warned Monday that the armed forces would not stand idle by if the country's pro-democracy opposition tries to stir up unrest.

Commentaries in state-controlled newspapers said it was impossible "at this unsuitable time" to call a parliament.

National League for Democracy (NLD) leader Aung San Suu Kyi told supporters at the weekend that she would convene a "People's Parliament" in September in a direct challenge to the military government's authority.

"If the party cannot call (parliament), what will it do next? Is the NLD going to make instigations for an outbreak of civil strife?" a commentary in the New Light of Myanmar asked.

"Is it going to launch attacks with alien assistance to grab power? Is the Tatmadaw (armed forces) going to stay idle if the NLD starts aggressive campaigns or repulse attacks?" it said.

The article referred back to mob violence during Myanmar's 1988 uprising for democracy, which the military crushed, killing thousands of people, according to opposition estimates.

The opposition has become increasingly assertive in recent months in its campaign to try to force the government to recognise the results of the country's last general election in 1990, which the NLD won by a landslide.

Last week, college students staged their first street protests since 1996.

Government officials have said calling a parliament of those elected in 1990 would be illegal and state media have suggested the opposition should be outlawed and Suu Kyi deported if the party proceeds with its plans.

The military has never recognised the poll result and has since arrested scores of opposition members. It has said a constitution is needed before a parliament is called but the opposition

accuses the government of stalling.

On Aug. 18, leaders of the government and opposition held their first talks for more than a year but the NLD said a genuine dialogue was not possible unless such talks included 1991 Nobel peace laureate Suu Kyi, something the government has always resisted.

State newspapers have repeatedly attacked the opposition in recent days. Monday's articles accused Suu Kyi of following a "destructive path" and said it was time for her to realise her wrongdoing.

In a speech quoted in local papers Saturday, the government's powerful Secretary One Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt condemned the opposition as traitors motivated and supported by foreign powers.

Articles in the same papers said power could not be handed to the NLD and that Western-style democracy was an inappropriate form of government for Myanmar.

Singapore launches electronic traffic toll system

SINGAPORE (R) — Singapore will launch a unique, smart card-based toll system Tuesday in its latest effort to prevent the traffic jams that choke other Southeast Asian cities.

Months of testing in every kind of tropical weather preceded the launch of the world's first Electronic Road Pricing (ERP) system, at a cost of Singapore dollars (S\$) 200 million (\$113 million).

The use of cars is discouraged in the tiny island state, where traffic jams would rapidly overwhelm the public facilities, and Singapore uses a system of tolls and permits to control the number of cars in its streets.

ERP eliminates the need for motorists to buy a monthly pass to enter the central business district or cruise main highways. Instead, vehicles are fit-

ted with a smart card installed in a device on the dashboard.

Electronic devices, mounted on gantries above the road, deduct the appropriate charge as the cars pass under them.

The old pass cost the ordinary motorist S\$60 a month or S\$2 to S\$3 a day, depending on the destination and timing of the journey. Motorists with no passes faced fines of up to S\$70.

The new system will cost between 10 Singapore cents and S\$3 each time an ordinary car enters the business district or moves onto a highway.

A consortium led by Philips Singapore, a unit of Philips Electronics NV, built the new system to the government's specification, with an accuracy of one error in 100,000 transactions.

It went into action on

two main highways early this month.

There have been no reports of problems on those roads, but the government had to apologise last week after 1,500 motorists were charged when workers carrying out an overnight test forgot to switch off a gantry.

For motorists, there's no escape from the ERP.

Each gantry can read the unique number of every windscreen unit, thus identifying car and owner, and whether it has a card in it or not. A missing card means a fine of up to S\$70.

The ERP seems likely to be accepted a lot more easily than the old system introduced in 1975. But there is some grumbling, nevertheless.

One taxi driver pointed to the list of rates varying from 15 Singapore cents to S\$1, which the ERP will

charge depending on destination and time of day.

"Who's going to be able to remember all that? Still, we'll be passing the charge on to the passenger, so I suppose it doesn't matter much," he said.

Singaporeans have got used to the idea that owning a car is expensive. Besides paying for a car, they must also pay for the licence to own and use it, known as a certificate of entitlement (COE).

COEs, meant to limit the number of new cars on the roads, were introduced in 1990. The government sells only a limited number at auction every month.

Car dealers or potential owners bid for them, with rates varying from S\$30,000 to S\$40,000, depending on engine size.

Each is valid for ten years, after which it must be renewed or the car replaced.

Eight die in killings in South Africa town

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Eight people were shot and killed at the weekend in a fresh spate of violence in South Africa's volatile KwaZulu-Natal province, police said Monday.

A police statement said five of the murders were committed Sunday in the province's picturesque town of Richmond, where more than 50 people have died in vicious killings as political parties square up for next year's general election.

Two other people were in hospital with gun-shot wounds. Police and independent monitors believe the clashes are related to turf battles between political parties, similar to those that led to the deaths of more than 14,000 people in KwaZulu-Natal in the 10 years before the 1994 all-race election.

That violence was mainly between the now-banned African National Congress (ANC) and the Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party, but the new conflict is seen as a struggle between supporters of the ANC and the new United

Democratic Movement (UDM), headed by a former ANC leading light.

Police said they had arrested two men after reports they had severely assaulted two other men, and a charge of attempted murder had been filed against them.

"It is believed that both these men are alleged to have been firing gunshots in the area and might be linked to the deaths mentioned," the statement said.

Three other people, two of them thought to be a father and son and the third a 67-year-old woman from another household, were killed Saturday in Kranskop in northern KwaZulu-Natal.

The motives for the murders were unknown, and police were not immediately available for further comment.

The killings in KwaZulu-Natal had tapered off since the government deployed troops to Richmond last month.

Security officials have however complained they are hampered by lack of money to bolster the 500-strong force sent to the town to quell the violence.



A young girl covers her face after laying a bouquet of flowers at Kensington Palace. Thousands of people made their way to the palace to pay their respects to Diana, Princess of Wales who, along with Dodi Al Fayed, was tragically killed in a high speed car crash in Paris one year ago (Reuters photo)

A year later, Princess Diana mourned in public and in private

CRATHIE, Scotland (AP) — A year after Princess Diana's death, thousands of people commemorated one of the most public lives of modern times Monday, while those who knew her best marked the anniversary of a very private grief in the seclusion of their Scottish castle.

Diana's beloved boys, Prince William, 16, and Prince Harry, 13, were with the rest of the royal family at Balmoral Castle, where their father woke them last Aug. 31 to tell them of their mother's fatal crash.

The pile of flowers at the gates of the princess' former home at Kensington Palace in London grew to about a thousand bouquets Monday morning.

Messages in many languages, photographs taken from newspapers, and paper hearts adorned the black and gold palace gates. Scores of well-wishers held an all-night candle-lit vigil, and public memorial services were planned at the city's great cathedrals.

The national flag, the Union Jack, flew at half staff on government buildings and royal residences, as an official symbol of the personal and public remembrance of Diana. Queen Elizabeth II was criticised after the princess' death for not lowering the royal standard at Buckingham Palace in her memory.

But for Diana's family it was a day for quiet reflection — private prayers for her sons at the tiny stone church of Crathie parish, just outside Balmoral Castle's gates and across the rushing waters of the River Dee, and a private service near her island grave at her family's ancestral home, Althorp, for her brother and sisters.

The queen Monday thanked people who have sent many messages of sympathy, through the royal website as well as in the mail.

"The queen and the royal family, particularly the Prince of Wales, Prince William and Prince Harry, would like to thank people for their messages and kind gestures of sympathy at this sad time and for sharing their remembrance of the Princess of Wales," said a royal statement.

"Crowds... and congregations in London, Paris and at Balmoral remembered Diana Sunday and early Monday with tears, flowers and prayers. But there were no repeats of last year's huge crowds — just a constant stream of people visiting Kensington Palace, Althorp and to the scene of the Paris car crash a year ago.

Harry sat on either side of their father, Prince Charles, in the front pew.

Balmoral, Queen Victoria's "dear paradise" of mountains, moorlands, forests and salmon streams, has been a vacation retreat for the royal family since 1855 and they visit off and on during the year, particularly in late summer.

But they came together en masse, with spouses and children, to be present for the anniversary of Diana's death. Prime Minister Tony Blair and his wife, Cherie, who were at Balmoral for the annual prime ministerial weekend, also attended the family prayers Monday morning.

At Althorp, 120 kms north of London, away from the public gaze, Diana's brother, Earl Spencer and her sisters, Lady Sarah McCorquodale and Lady Jane Fellowes, planned a service near her burial site on an island in an ornamental lake. The estate and the museum in Diana's memory closed for the season Sunday after receiving 152,000 visitors who paid up to £9 (\$15.75) each.

At St. James's Palace, where Harry and William live in London with Prince Charles, Diana's former employees and other members of the royal household were expected to attend a service of remembrance in the chapel where the princess' coffin rested before her funeral.

Diana's face appeared on front pages of most of the national newspapers Sunday, and half a dozen special programmes were offered on television.

Sir Elton John, whose adaptation of "Candle in the Wind" in memory of Diana

captured the grief of millions around the world, criticised her family's decision to bury her on a tiny island far from her sons and her adoring public.

The rock star, in an interview with The Sunday Telegraph, said Diana should have been buried in Westminster Abbey, where her funeral took place.

"I just feel it's sad that she's on that island — it's as if she's all alone again," he was quoted as saying.

A granite and bronze sculpture of Diana and Dodi Fayed, the lover with whom she died, was unveiled Monday at Harrods, the London store owned by Fayed's father.

It was a public "bank" holiday Monday and commemorations seemed modest, reflecting recent opinion polls indicating many Britons found last year's mourning excessive.

The Daily Telegraph Friday published the results of a telephone survey by Gallup which found that 94 per cent of those questioned said they had no plans to mark the anniversary. While 28 per cent wanted the day to be an occasion for national remembrance, 69 per cent thought it should be left for individuals to mark as they choose.

The survey of 1,009 people had a margin of error of three percentage points. One of Diana's closest friends, Rosa Monckton, the president of Tiffany's London operation, said the princess would be appalled at the cult that has grown up around her since her death.

"This whole Diana industry, which is so sordid, should stop and she should rest in peace," Monckton told BBC Radio 4.

IRA tells group behind Omagh bomb to disband

BELFAST (R) — The outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA) Monday warned renegades responsible for Northern Ireland's worst guerrilla atrocity to disband.

The IRA, which is observing a truce in its long war against British rule, said the attack in Omagh town by the "Real IRA" that killed 28 people on Aug. 15 had "undoubtedly caused damage to the struggle for Irish independence and unity."

The IRA, a clandestine force that rarely makes public comments, offered sympathy to the victims' families and the 220 people who were injured in Omagh, saying the car bomb explosion had been "a disaster and a tragedy of enormous proportions."

An IRA spokesman accused the breakaway Real IRA, which admitted the incident, of hijacking its name and of trying to under-

mine the leadership of the mainstream guerrilla group. The spokesman made the comments in an interview with Republican News, the weekly organ of the IRA's Sinn Fein political wing.

The text of the interview was published in the Irish News, a Belfast morning paper read mainly by Catholic nationalists who seek union with the Irish Republic.

"The grouping have done only disservice to the republican cause. They have no coherent political strategy, they are not a credible alternative to the victims' families and the 220 people who were injured in Omagh, saying the car bomb explosion had been 'a disaster and a tragedy of enormous proportions'."

An IRA spokesman accused the breakaway Real IRA, which admitted the incident, of hijacking its name and of trying to under-

under a security clampdown on both sides of the border since the attack has made no comment on the IRA's statement.

It carried out the daylight attack on a busy Saturday afternoon in the market town but said later that it had not intended to kill civilians. The group said it had been aiming for a commercial target.

"It was the latest in a chain of town centre bombings designed to destabilise the peace accord, one of whose signatories is Sinn Fein."

The mainstream IRA called off hostilities in July 1997 to pave the way for full-scale talks that led to the accord in April this year. The Real IRA argues that the deal perpetuates British rule.

The Irish News said that, while the IRA spokesman had stopped short of threatening action against the splinter group, "the IRA's statement, sanctioned at the

Indonesia says troop withdrawal from Aceh complete

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia's armed forces said 658 soldiers were withdrawn from troubled Aceh province Monday, completing a promised removal of combat troops amid allegations the military was responsible for rape, torture and killings.

A defence ministry spokesman said the departing troops, who included 28 members of the Kopassus elite forces, would be moved from the industrial town of Lhokseumawe to other areas of Sumatra Island or to Java.

"Now there are only non-combat troops remaining in the province," he said.

Armed forces chief General Wiranto flew to Aceh early in August to make an unprecedented apology for army abuses during a nine-year crackdown against a separatist

insurgency in the staunchly Muslim province.

He announced an end to military operations in the province and said all combat troops would be withdrawn within a month.

Acehnese human rights groups say the army was responsible for widespread kidnappings, torture and the dumping of hundreds of victims in mass graves in the province since 1989.

Indonesia's official National Commission on Human Rights said last week after a fact-finding mission to Aceh that 3,000 women had been widowed in the province during the army crackdown.

The human rights fact-finding team investigated several mass grave sites during its visit.

At one site, a patch of scrub-covered wasteland known as Bukit Sentang, the bones of at least 12

people were unearthed.

Bahurudin Lopa, head of the commission, said more than 150 could be buried at the site and that the remains proved Aceh had been a "killing field."

Investigators dug up the remains of five more suspected army victims at three other sites in the province.

Wiranto has disputed the commission's findings, saying the skeletons unearthed could be the victims of a pogrom against the now-banned Communist party in the mid-1960s.

Indonesia's army has been put on the defensive since the resignation of former president Suharto on May 21 amid a devastating economic downturn, mass protests against his 32-year rule and an explosion of rioting in Jakarta.

Buffeted by allegations of

atrocities in Aceh, the former Portuguese colony of East Timor and the remote eastern province of Irian Jaya, and by an admission that Kopassus troops were involved in the abduction and torture of anti-Suharto activists, Wiranto has said the military is ready to reform itself.

Lieutenant-General Prabowo Subianto, son-in-law of Suharto and former Kopassus commander, was dismissed last week for alleged involvement in the kidnapping of political activists.

Indonesia has also removed some troops from recent months from Irian Jaya and East Timor, where it also faced separatist insurgencies. The army withdrew 394 soldiers from the Irian Jaya town of Timika last week, and withdrew hundreds of troops from East Timor in July.

Hundreds riot over new governor in eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA (AFP) — Hundreds of people rioted Monday in the eastern Indonesian island of Lombok leaving at least 13 injured, after authorities ignored public protests and installed a new government-backed governor, witness and a report said.

The riot broke out near the tightly-guarded provincial parliament of Western Nusa Tenggara province in Mataram as Home Minister Syarwan Hamid was installing the new provincial governor, Harun Al Rasyid, Antara said.

The rioters clashed with security forces on three streets which converged on the square in front of the parliament house, Antara news agency said. Seven official cars were damaged.

A staff member at the Mataram University about one kilometre from the new local parliament building said that on his way to the office he

had witnessed security forces diverting the protesters away from the parliament building.

"The people were pushed back to the old parliament building, where they overturned some civil servants' cars," the staff member who identified himself only as Iwan said, adding the rioters later stoned houses and shops.

He said there had been heavy security in the city since Saturday. When a similar protest involving some 10,000 people had pelted the parliament building and the neighbouring Governor's office with rocks.

Several armoured vehicles had been patrolling the town since Sunday, he said, adding a police mobile brigade and troops from the neighbouring resort island of Bali were among the reinforcements deployed Monday.

"The riot is over," First Sergeant Herman of the Mataram regional police told

AFP by telephone early in the afternoon. He declined to give details other than the clashes lasted about one hour.

Initial data shows that 10 protesters and three security personnel were injured and taken to the Mataram (state) hospital," the head of the West Lombok police, Lieutenant Colonel Junsaidy Thiansyah told Antara.

But an emergency ward staff member at the Mataram General Hospital said 15 people had been treated for minor injuries and all had since been released.

"Yes, there were some people here earlier... Nobody was seriously injured, just one guy who had a minor concussion but he wanted to go home," Alwi, the emergency room staffer, said.

He said some of the injured might also have been taken to the Islamic hospital.

The protesters were angered at the government's move to

appoint the new governor despite protests demanding new elections amid accusations the results did not reflect the will of the people.

Protesters charged the elections had been rigged to allow the government-backed candidate, a non-native of the province, to win. Al-Rasyid won the elections with the two native candidates trailing far behind.

Thursday, some 5,000 people angered by the lack of action over their fraud charges stoned the parliament and attacked the nearby governor's office.

They returned in double strength with 10,000 people Saturday, further damaging the legislature building and the governor's office and damaging five cars.

The Suara Karya daily said 27 people were arrested following Saturday's incident.

Defiant and confident, Congolese rebels prepare for long war

GOMA, Congo (AP) — From Congo's capital, Kinshasa, government victory may seem at hand. But from rebel-held eastern Congo, insurgents say time is on their side.

"The war is going on," rebel leader Ernest Wamba told The Associated Press. "The government forces would've been by now completely out if it were not for the Angolans and Zimbabweans. But they cannot stay long. And we're going to continue fighting no matter what."

Angolan and Zimbabwean troops led the fight for rebel-held towns in western Congo that have now been retaken by pro-government forces.

Sunday, the rebels suffered a major defeat in a month-old campaign to topple Kabila when they pulled out of Matadi, 350 kilometres southwest of Kinshasa — the only remaining air base in western Congo under their control.

Wamba said the rebel force in western Congo — believed to number between 6,000 and 9,000 troops — had to with-

draw to avoid being cut off from each other by Angolan troops.

The loss had forced the rebels to change tactics. The rebels say they will split into smaller, mobile groups, ready to strike Kinshasa at times, and infiltrate the city and lie low until the departure of Kabila's allies, he said.

The 56-year-old former Harvard political economy lecturer said a guerrilla war will eventually bring victory.

"Nobody can rule effectively only with foreign support," he said. "Zimbabwe cannot stay for a long time. Angola may not stay for longer either. They have too many fronts open against them. They have to be in Congo-Brazzaville, they have to deal with (separatists) in Cabinda, they have to deal with Congo-Kinshasa, and they are only 11 million people."

Since the rebels — a coalition of ethnic Tutsis, exiled politicians and disenfranchised members of Kabila's army — took up arms a month ago, they

have seized eastern Congo and come within a few kilometres of Kinshasa after fighting from the Atlantic Ocean, where they had airlifted thousands of troops.

But Angola's and Zimbabwe's intervention reversed rebel gains in the west — at least for now. Wamba said his forces were preparing for a prolonged conflict.

"We are trying to tell our people that this may not be a few weeks' affair. It could be months, it could be years. The more people get that sense that this is a worthwhile struggle, the people will continue struggling," he said.

Wamba said the rebels control gold mines around Kisangani, Congo's third largest city, and were collecting customs taxes to bankroll the rebellion as well as negotiating international loans. He did not elaborate.

"It is possible, if we organise ourselves very well, to generate money which would have us sustain costs in a long (term) way," he said.

The rebels still control a string of towns in eastern Congo and supplies can be ferried from Kisangani on the Congo River to rebels around Kinshasa.

The rebels accuse Kabila of power-grabbing, nepotism and promoting his kinsmen from southern Katanga province in the government, security services and the army.

"Fundamentally, this is a problem of how power is being misused," Wamba said. "We need responsible leadership if we want to have stability in Congo and regionally."

Kabila accuses his erstwhile allies in Rwanda and Uganda of sponsoring the rebellion and invading the country. Both countries have threatened to intervene openly to protect their borders.

"The very existence of Rwanda and Uganda requires at least in Congo stability and peace," Wamba said. "The hope of the region was that with Kabila, security and peace of the area will be established. But they are not there."

Scientists warn of new ozone layer threat

CANBERRA. Australia (AP) — Australian scientists said Monday they are mystified by the rapid rise of an ozone-depleting chemical in the atmosphere which threatens to delay the recovery of the Earth's precious ozone layer.

Measurements of pristine air collected at the Bureau of Meteorology's Cape Grim baseline air pollution station in northwest Tasmania found a five-fold jump in the level of halon-1202 in the atmosphere since the late 1970s.

During the past two years,

the atmospheric concentration of halon-1202 had grown 17 per cent a year, Paul Fraser of Australia's federal science agency said.

"The international community will have to consider extending the ban on production of halons to halon-1202 if we are to protect the ozone layer," Fraser said.

Fraser said the source of the new halon remained a mystery, speculating the gas could be a by-product of inefficient production of other halons in developing countries.

Some countries might also

be manufacturing halon-1202 for military applications, he said.

Halon-1202 has an ozone-depletion potential of about half that of common chlorofluorocarbons.

But unlike other halons used in the past for fire fighting, halon-1202 was not controlled by the Montreal Protocol — which gives developing countries until 2010 to completely phase out halon production.

Fraser said measurements showed most chlorofluorocarbons were slowing down their atmospheric growth

rate, had stabilised in the atmosphere or were even dropping in concentration.

This meant ozone recovery was likely to be detected in the next 10 to 20 years.

"However, continued emissions of halons will delay this recovery," he said.

The ozone layer, located about 24 km above the Earth, is a shield against the sun's deadly ultraviolet radiation.

A thinning ozone layer can let in enough UV light to cause skin cancers and cataracts.

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Another Israeli obstacle

THE SEVERE water shortages in the West Bank this summer are a grim reminder that water sharing in Palestine is destined to be one of thorny issues of the final status talks between Israel and the Palestinians. The lack of water was most evident in Bethlehem and Hebron. Palestinians there were left with literally no water to drink while those areas' Jewish settlers were seen watering their lawns and filling up their swimming pools.

There is a consensus among the Palestinians that Israel is cutting down drastically on water diverted to Palestinian cities and towns as agreed upon in the Oslo accords.

Jordan has been constantly sounding the alarm about the imminent dangers of water shortages throughout the region. Control over water sources and the fair distribution of what is still available of it top the agenda of Middle Eastern capitals. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, recently drew attention once again to the simmering conflict over water and called for an ingenious plan to resolve the issue on a regional basis. Only a comprehensive scheme for the entire region offers hope for avoiding a future war over water.

Desalination is certainly one method of securing water that has yet to be fully tapped. It is obviously expensive to construct desalination plants but if solar energy were utilised for this purpose, then the cost could be significantly reduced. Meanwhile, Israel must act responsibly and share control over water especially when the aquifers being coveted by Israel are situated in the heart of Palestinian lands. The 4th Geneva Convention outlaws the confiscation of water and water sources of occupied territories by an occupying power. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights also denies an occupying power all authority to undermine the livelihood and welfare of a people under occupation, especially over essentials such as water. Israel should act by the rules and stop poisoning the atmosphere with yet another ploy to make life for the Palestinians that much more difficult. The peace process is already overburdened with political and security-related issues and can ill-afford another obstacle.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Fahed Faneh argued that the government's reform programme, which had been launched in conjunction with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, is still far from being completed. The rise from a relatively stable 3.5 per cent to a budget deficit of 7 per cent or more in the last years clearly indicates the failure of past governments to reform the economic sector. Faneh stipulates that, unless the mere nominal changes that have occurred, turning government "establishments" into companies, are considered an important step towards reform, the Majali government must be reprimanded for its lack of initiative. Moreover, the ex-government failed to meet the dates set forth for the privatisation of national enterprises such as Royal Jordanian, Jordan Telecommunications Company or Aqaba Railway, hence, the lack of reform or growth witnessed during the current recession cannot come as a surprise, the writer continues. Supportive words from the World Bank and government officials have all proven in vain. With the current agreement approaching its final stages, the new government needs to consider whether to embark on a new such arrangement with the IMF or opt to develop an independent reform programme. Due to the "non-revolutionary" composition of Tarawneh's Cabinet — most Cabinet members are economists — Faneh, however, speculates that the current reform programme will not be discontinued. The government should seek more concessions from creditors, seek more grants from donors, make use of the World Bank's experts and attract foreign and Arab investors, he demanded.

Shoot first, ask questions later

By Gwynne Dyer

HERE'S ANOTHER reason to doubt that that Sudanese factory was really making poison gas. One of the "experts" wheeled out last week to confirm that Osama Ben Laden planned chemical attacks on the United States, after bombs outside U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania and retaliatory U.S. missile strikes in Sudan and Afghanistan, was none other than Vince Cannistraro, formerly counter-terrorism chief at the Central Intelligence Agency.

This is the same Cannistraro who told us in early 1989 that the CIA had "convincing evidence" that Palestinian terrorists with Iranian and Syrian backing were responsible for the bomb aboard Pan Am Flight 103 the previous December, which killed 270 people on the jumbo jet and in the Scottish village of Lockerbie below.

"From an intelligence point of view this case is solved," he said. "There is a lot of evidence which puts this at the doorstep of the Iranian government." But in 1990 Iraq invaded Kuwait — and suddenly the "convincing evidence" became a lot less convincing.

"The West wanted Syria and Iran to be benevolent towards military action against Saddam Hussein," explains Scottish MP Tam Dalyell, who follows the Lockerbie case closely. So Washington blamed Libya's Colonel Muammar Qadhafi for the atrocity instead — and it was a turning point in U.S. policy, for it didn't immediately bomb him. Instead, it tried to bring his alleged agents to trial.

The Lockerbie bombing in 1988 was the climax of a long escalation in which the U.S. replied to terrorist attacks by prompt and often illegal counter-violence against the suspected sponsors, like President Ronald Reagan's 1986 bombing raids on Libya. But in the shocked aftermath of Lockerbie the U.S. government realised, as one of Cannistraro's colleagues put it, that "our policies" just set up the next round of terrorism. So U.S. policy changed: in future, terrorist suspects would be pursued by legal means.

One of the first results of the new policy was the 1991 indictment of two Libyan citizens for bombing Pan Am Flight 103, and a demand for their extradition from Libya for trial in a British or American court.

Nobody really expected Qadhafi to hand them over, but his refusal would provide a justification for slapping a punishing embargo on Libya.

But Qadhafi is no fool; he obeyed the law. As soon as the Lord Advocate of Scotland charged two Malta-based employees of Libyan Arab Airlines, Al-Amin Khalifa Fhimah and Abdel Basset Al-Megrahi, with putting a bag with a bomb into Malta airport's luggage system for transfer to Flight 103, Qadhafi arrested them, appointed an investigating magistrate, and asked for the evidence against them.

This was in precise compliance with the 1971 Convention to Suppress Acts of Violence Against Civil Aviation. But neither Washington nor London was willing to let Libya try the men (since they thought Qadhafi himself was the chief terrorist), and demanded that they be handed over for trial in Britain or the U.S.

Qadhafi outsmarted his opponents at every move. He offered to let British and American officials interview the suspects in a neutral venue. He suggested that they might be tried in some other country. He appealed to the International Court of Justice in The Hague (the World Court) to protect Libya's rights under the law.

His tactics won much sympathy in the Third World — and in 1992 he was about to get a favourable interim ruling from the World Court when Washington bypassed the legal process by ramming through a United Nations Security Council resolution banning air travel and arms sales to Libya. Since much of Europe's oil comes from Libya, however, Libyan oil exports were not banned — so Qadhafi has shrugged off the U.N. sanctions and run rings around his enemies.

In 1996 he formally offered to let the suspects be tried under Scottish law in a neutral location, and began working to win the support of African and Arab nations for an end to the embargo. His first big success came last October, when South Africa's President Nelson Mandela defied sanctions and went to see Qadhafi (who backed the anti-apartheid struggle generously when the U.S. and Britain were still cosy with the white regime).

In February, the World Court ruled that it has juris-

isdiction to hear Libya's case against Britain and the U.S., and Arab countries decided to ignore the air embargo. In July, African countries voted to stop obeying sanctions altogether unless the U.N. Security Council agreed by September to allow a third-country trial.

So Washington and London have given up and re-packaged Qadhafi's proposal as their own. If he hands the suspects over for trial in the Netherlands before Scottish judges under Scottish law, sanctions will end immediately.

But more than that, the U.S. has given up on sanctions and the legal route in general. From now on, says National Security Adviser Sandy Berger, unilateral U.S. retaliation with bombs and missiles will be "the long-term fundamental way in which the U.S. intends to combat the forces of terror." Whether they know who did it or not. It's more satisfying emotionally: blowing things up makes it look like something is being achieved. It also makes a bigger splash in domestic politics, as President Clinton was quick to note. So the tit-for-tat violence will continue and escalate until some U.S. blunder that kills a lot of innocent foreigners, or some huge terrorist success like Lockerbie, forces another change of the policy and we come full circle.

Meanwhile, what of Lockerbie itself? If Qadhafi hands over the suspects, the trial will take up to a year — and then they will probably get off. As Prof. Mike McConville of Warwick University's law school puts it: "The prosecution task is not impossible but it is still going to be formidable. The evidence... would have to be stronger than the material which has so far come into the public domain if there were to be convictions."

In fact, given that this is a Scottish court, the likeliest verdict is neither 'guilty' nor 'innocent', but just 'not proven'.

Gwynne Dyer is a London-based independent journalist and historian whose articles are published in 45 countries.

Rami Khouri is away on holiday



LETTERS

Only by peaceful means

To the editor

THE RESPONSE by 'Inad Khairallah to Bala Lemak's letter is titled "It's not that simple." Perhaps it is. The tone of the response is that, if terrorism is not acceptable, it is understandable. I am an American. However, I do not make any allowance for Jewish terrorism, Muslim terrorism, nor Christian or any other terrorism in the name of a religion or any cause whatsoever. I know they both are very much a part of the Middle East problem. The tendency of Muslims to resort to terrorism to gain attention to their plight will always get attention but will never gain them their human rights. One movement in the U.S. has a modicum of success because of a concept of non-violent protest. The blacks in the U.S. began to move out of their condition of second class citizenship when they took up the fight in non-violent fashion. Palestinians began their move toward world recognition of their political agenda when they took a policy to shed the terrorist label. Jews had to shake off the effects of their terrorist activities before the state of Israel was proclaimed. Jewish terrorists became prime ministers of the state of Israel. God forbid that Muslim terrorists should become prime minister or president of Palestine or any other Middle East state.

There is a very great difference between executing a terrorist and killing innocent people to get attention, however just the cause. Yes, get the attention of the American people, the people of the world. Get it in the press. Get it through the ballot box. Get it by political activity. Get it by appeal to what is right. Enough people understand that to get results. The results are coming. The Internet is the medium to be used to lead the fight. But the fight is being felt in words and deeds, not terrorism and irrational "religious" holy wars. Mr/Ms. Khairallah, if you "...cannot agree more..." that Wrong is Wrong, drop the apology for terrorism.

Frank Goodman, USA

The world's worst terrorists are based in Washington

By John Pilger

BY KNOWINGLY killing innocent people, for political ends, President Bill Clinton is a terrorist. By supporting his action, the prime minister of Britain, Tony Blair is an accomplice. The dictionary meaning of terrorism allows no other interpretation: the rest is wilful obfuscation, or propaganda. What matters now is our informed reaction.

We have been through this many times before, with the lies echoed predictably from Downing Street. In 1986, there was the "evil" Colonel Qadhafi, whose country President Ronald Reagan bombed from bases in Britain, killing mostly women and children, including Qadhafi's 16-month-old daughter.

In 1990, there was the "evil" General Noriega, said to be a dangerous drugs trafficker, whose capture by U.S. Marines required a full-scale invasion of his country and the death by bombing of at least 2,000 Panamanians, mainly the poorest of the poor in their barrios. Noriega and drugs had precious little to do with it. The aim was to put Panama, its canal and its U.S. base under direct American sovereignty, managed by other Noriegas.

In the same year, there was "the truly evil" Saddam Hussein, another one of Bush's and Reagan's old pals, whose regime they had armed and backed (along with Margaret Thatcher, who sent most of her cabinet to Baghdad as supplicants or arms salesmen). Saddam's use of American and British weapons in his attack on the "evil" mullahs in Iran in 1980 was perfectly forgettable. A million people died in that "forgotten" war, and the American and British arms industries

never looked back.

Alas, Saddam, the nominal victor, then attacked the wrong country, Kuwait, which is effectively an Anglo-American oil protectorate. He was clearly unreliable: "an uppity bastard," as one State Department brief described him more in sorrow than anger. Punishing the uppity bastard cost as many as 200,000 Iraqi lives, according to a study by the Medical Educational Trust. These were ordinary Iraqis who died during and immediately after a period of military and economic carnage whose true scale has never been appreciated outside the Middle East.

This old fashioned colonial massacre was called the Gulf war. The dead included thousands of Kurdish and Shia people who were Saddam's bitter opponents and whom Bush had called upon to rise up against their oppressor. Long after it was over, New York Newsday revealed, from official sources, that three brigades of the U.S. 1st Mechanised Infantry Division — "The Big Red One" — had used snowploughs mounted on tanks to bury alive Iraqi conscripts in more than 70 miles of trenches. A brigade commander said, "For all I know, we could have killed thousands."

This was a war crime. The following year, Bush attacked Somalia in what was called a "humanitarian intervention." He was in the midst of his reelection campaign. Bush said the Marines were doing "God's work... saving thousands of innocents." Like his moralising over the Gulf war, this was generally accepted by the British media, with honourable exceptions.

American television crews were waiting as the Marines landed in a beautiful

African pre-dawn, "prime time" at home. From the Somali side there was perpetual darkness: "chaos" and tribalism and "warlords." When the American warlords had completed their adventure in Somalia and taken the media home with them, the story died, as we say. According to CIA estimates, the Marines had left between 7,000 and 10,000 Somalis dead. This was not news.

Soon after he was elected in 1992, Clinton attacked Baghdad with 23 Cruise missiles. These destroyed a residential area, killing, once again, mostly women and children, including Iraq's most distinguished artist, Leila Al Attar.

Interviewed on his way to church with his wife, Clinton said, "I feel quite good about this, and I think the American people feel quite good about it." The pretext for the attack was an Iraqi "plot" to kill George Bush on a visit to Kuwait. There was no hard evidence and the plot story is now widely regarded as fake.

Two years ago, Clinton attacked Iraq again, this time insisting that he was "defending" Kurds against Saddam Hussein, who "must pay the price." Once again civilians — television's unpeople, I call them — paid the price.

Earlier this year, Clinton very nearly attacked again. Virtually the same footage of missiles looking sleek against the dawn light, courtesy of the Pentagon, appeared on British television. What stopped him?

Like spontaneous combustion, public opinion all over the world raised its voice. The cameras had also shown glimpses of Iraq's silent holocaust, the consequences of the imposition of "economic sanctions" by the United States and Britain (under the usual U.N. flag of convenience) against

the Iraqi civilian population, notably its children.

Tony Blair said he wept for the children who were killed in Omagh by a terrorist act, but he is silent on the children who die in Iraq as a result of one of the most enduring terrorist acts of the late 20th century, conducted largely by his government and its principal ally.

According to the Food and Agricultural Organisation and the World Health Organisation, both U.N. agencies, more than half a million children have died as a direct result of sanctions. Other sources put the figure at over a million. Baby food and enriched powdered milk are blocked, along with vital hospital equipment: stethoscopes, X-ray machines, medical swabs, scanners and water-purifiers.

As for the news of Clinton's latest attack, the surreal stereotypes are back on parade: the flag burning, embassy-storming, bearded, wild men of Islam — "the enemy of the future," says Washington. Forget that not only have Muslims been responsible for a tiny proportion of deaths caused by terrorism, but in recent years it is they who have been the greatest sufferers from state terrorism. The limbs found lying in the rubble in Khartoum and Afghanistan are theirs; the terrible burns shown fleetingly on TV are theirs.

All, of course, are unpeople: the victims of an unerring pattern of ruthless, lawless terrorism. Imperialist by nature and infinitely greater than that of any Islamic or Irish group. It is time to stop sniggering at the distractions of this rampant power and to recognise the truth about it and speak out.

— The Independent

Features

Turks find hub of Byzantine rule

The unearthing in Istanbul of a magnificent 1,600-year-old palace may unravel many mysteries of a vast empire which became a byword for intrigue and treachery

By Christ Morris

TURKISH ARCHAEOLOGISTS in Istanbul believe they have discovered a long-lost part of history — the Grand Palace of the Byzantine Empire which ruled much of the known world for more than a thousand years.

The significance of the dig — which is within sight of the famed Aya Sofya, in the city's historic Sultanahmet district — was revealed after months of secret excavation and restoration.

"We began excavations in late 1997 and finished this phase in the middle of last month," said Alpay Pasinli, the director of Istanbul's Museum of Archaeology. "We have a lot more work to do."

Local residents had thought the small construction site, which is visible at street level, was being used to repair a canal system.

"It is a great discovery," said Ekrem Akurgul, a professor of archaeology. "It gives us another unique site in the heart of the city."

The archaeological team believe they may

have found the palace archive where handwritten documents and icons were stored. They have also discovered vaulted corridors, a series of magnificent frescoes, and later additions to the palace made during the Ottoman era.

"The entrance is a lovely example of Ottoman architecture," Mr. Pasinli said. "A narrow aisle then leads into the Byzantine section, where the walls are covered with coloured frescoes."

The frescoes show vegetables and floral patterns in vivid greens, reds and yellows. Experts describe them as masterpieces in technique and use of material.

The small portion of the palace excavated so far apparently dates from the 9th century, but construction is thought to have started 500 years earlier, when Emperor Constantine the Great inaugurated the new capital of the Roman Empire in AD 330.

For more than 1,000 years, Constantinople was one of the most powerful cities in the world. The seat of early Christianity, it was also decorated with classical monuments from across the region.

Historians believe the palace complex

once covered a huge triangular area, stretching from the square next to Aya Sofya to the shores of the Sea of Marmara. It contained churches, gardens and ceremonial rooms, now buried beneath a bustling 20th century metropolis.

"Thousands of amazing sites are waiting to be discovered underneath the modern city," said Semavi Eyice, an expert in Byzantine history. "We never know exactly what will turn up next."

Some archaeologists complain it is too difficult for them to excavate properly in the centre of Istanbul, because of overcrowding and the presence of restricted military sites. "I'm glad they took this opportunity quickly when it came up," said one expert.

Critics of the way the modern city has been planned believe that ancient sites could be given much greater prominence, allowing Istanbul to compete with cities like Rome as important archaeological centres.

The rediscovered palace was at the heart of a flourishing empire for hundreds of years, but in the 11th century people began

to leave for security reasons. After Constantinople was sacked by the Fourth Crusade in 1204, the palace fell into disrepair. Constantinople was finally conquered by the Ottoman Turks in 1453, when it was renamed Istanbul.

Although it is too soon for visitors to be allowed access to the new excavations, city officials are already relishing the prospect of a boom in tourism if Istanbul adds another attraction to its current display of historical sites. That would be good news for Turkey's tourism industry, which is experiencing a bad year, with the number of visitors to Istanbul falling dramatically.

The archaeological team expect to find more hidden in intricate layers beneath the surface. Experts knew that the Grand Palace had once existed, but they were not able to begin excavations for many years, because a prison had occupied the site.

The site may help unravel many of the mysteries of a vast empire, which has become a modern byword for intrigue and double-dealing.

— The Guardian



One of many Byzantine churches in Turkey. The recent find may reveal much that is still unknown about that era (file photo)

Environment and health

Mr. Handyside makes a new greenhouse

By Dan Palmer

LONDON — Your toilet may soon have a closer relationship with your home's rain gutter by using collected rainwater to flush, in an effort to become more environmentally friendly.

Your walls may also soon be insulated with wool, flax, or recycled newspaper which take less energy to manufacture.

In other words, the word "greenhouse" may become a term not just left to gardeners who enjoy growing plants indoors.

A tour through a new building centre in London called Construction Resources shows how parts of your home could look, using environmentally friendly construction materials.

For instance, the roof of one of these environmentally friendly homes would resemble the solar panels of a satellite. The panels would be used to generate hot water by storing the energy cylinders used to heat the water.

Unfortunately, the panels would not be used to generate electricity, since the technology is not economically viable for a company to produce them just yet. But Construction Resources hopes that eventually will change.

Outside walls would be built of a Swiss system made of lower grade, often discarded, wood that is made of cross-glued boards to provide strength.

The hollow blocks resemble Lego and connect accordingly. In the cavities of the blocks, electrical wires, insulation and plumbing are placed. The benefit is that less lum-

ber is wasted and more trees are left in the forest.

On the inside of the "greenhouse," Danish lighting fixtures would come on automatically to save electricity. Inside walls would have alternative coverings that use less energy to manufacture, such as sticks that resemble woven bamboo shoots or unfired clay bricks made out of wood chips, straw, or flax that look like little bales of hay, which are just as strong and fire-resistant as clay-fired bricks.

Although similar building centres exist in Germany, and Denmark, this is the first of its kind for Britain, explains Richard Handyside, managing director and founder.

He adds that the company is also unique for Europe in the sense that it is the first to combine the "know-how" with the products it sells in the form of training seminars.

Handyside, a former book publisher and later software company owner, says he has no formal training in either building design or environmental engineering, but has had an affection for both subjects since he was a student at Cambridge where he graduated in economics and sociology.

But it was not until five years ago that the 55-year-old began to turn this interest into a business to help the environment. He had first tried some environmental tinkering of his own, using wind to generate electricity at a cottage he once owned in Wales.

Now he has six architects and engineers who are product specialists at Construction Resources. They can tell consumers every-

thing about natural paints to insulation.

This new business, explains Handyside, is not trying to "cash in" on the last decade of growth in environmentally friendly and green products to make a quick profit by slapping an environmentally friendly label on it.

The company looks at all its material from start to finish to see how much energy it takes to produce to bow quickly it will take to bio-degrade. "We're in it for the long-term basis," says Handyside.

The seminars are also part of Construction Resources plan to go the long haul.

For instance, contractors or members of the public can sign-up for a one-day seminar for £20 that explain the benefits of a home water collection system, which funnels rain water from roof gutters into a holding tank. The collected water can be used for toilet flushing to minimise water consumption from other sources by up to 50 per cent.

Other one day seminars include demonstrations of how to use the natural-based paints, while others show the techniques to install insulation properly.

Eventually, Handyside says he wants to see Construction Resources become involved in the training of architects and trades people either by producing manuals for existing courses or by creating new ones that are accredited.

Andy Wilson, a researcher for the British-based Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians, which represents carpenters, painters and workers who would be using these types of products, says Construction Resources is an interesting initiative and that the union would have no problem supporting it.

But Wilson explains that price would be a major factor in influencing trades people to use these environmentally friendly products on a job site. "Cost is everything," he says, "the lowest price is what wins the tender."

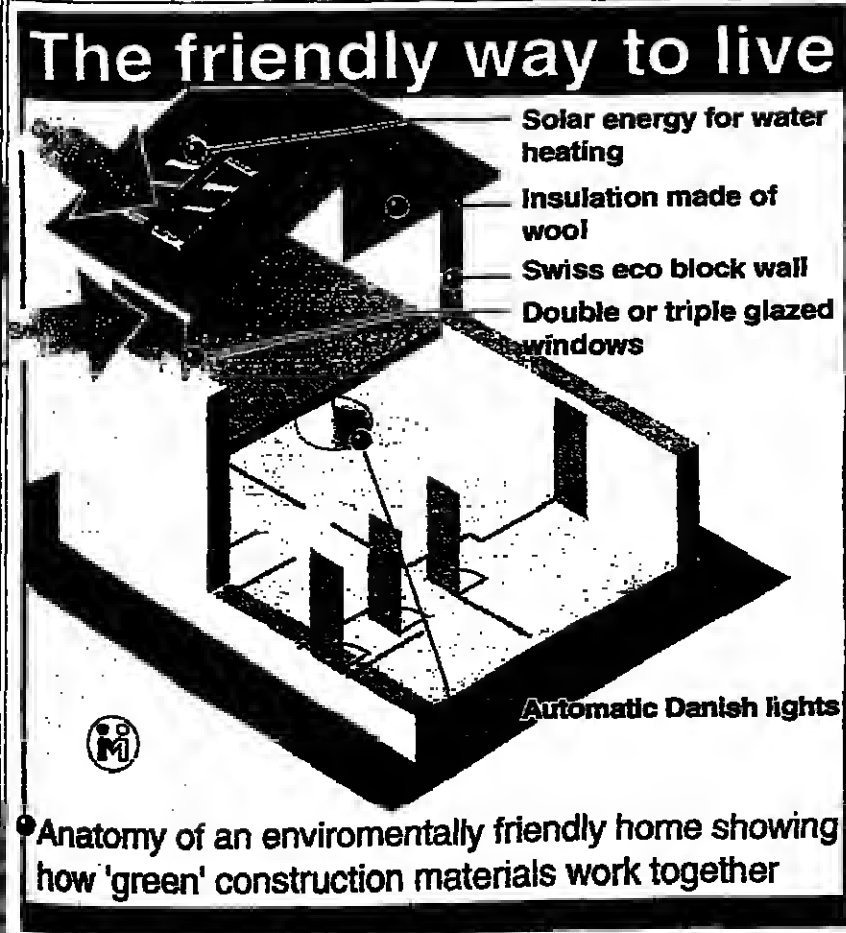
For instance, a square metre of conventional insulation made of fibre glass costs about £1.80 whereas Construction Resources flax insulation costs about £6.95 for a square metre.

Construction Resources natural paints, which are linseed oil based and have colour pigment added to them just before use, cost about £22.00 for five litres whereas conventional paints are about £15.00 for the same.

Handyside says that it will take a long time for the industry to react, but public pressure for environmentally friendly products will eventually change it.

"It's a long slow gradual process," says Handyside, "but gradual is the key word."

— Gemini News



How the house of the future may look like. Many houses which to a varying degree utilise environmentally friendly technology are being built already in parts of Scandinavia and Germany (Gemini graphics)

Dan Palmer is a Canadian journalist working in London on a fellowship arrangement with the School of Journalism and Communications at the University of Regina.

Race to save the beach of turtles

By Zadie Neufville

ENVIRONMENTALISTS ARE trying to save a nesting beach used by sea turtles that has been sold to developers by the Mexican government, despite federal regulations intended to protect the area.

The isolated beach of X'cabel, on the east coast of Quintana Roo, was divided and sold to two companies earlier this year.

The beach is said to be the largest reservoir of genetic diversity in green and loggerhead sea turtles in the Atlantic. Spanish and Mexican campaigners need \$11 million to buy 45 hectares sold to Melina, a hotel group which has offered to sell to the environmentalists. Another 48 hectares was sold to Mauro Gonzales, head of Gozumel Ga-sol, who bought the land for about \$2.25 million.

Early attempts to stop the sale failed when a petition by an ecology group submitted in 1994 for scientific exploration and preservation of X'cabel was turned down this year just before the land was sold.

Now, because of federal regulations protecting turtles, the local governor, Perez Erales, declared a portion of X'cabel a state turtle reserve. Mary Louise Whitlow, an activist from the United States who has also worked with Greenpeace Mexico, says this was a move to cover the sales.

The area extends 100 metres, from the water-line, an amount Whitlow says biologists have described as Band-Aid.

For years biologists and environmentalists turned have been watching the beaches at night to protect turtle eggs from poachers. They say the governor's gesture is a piece of worthless public relations.

Other areas near X'cabel were sold despite the federal protection ordinance that gives environmentalists first refusal if the land is sold. They were never given that chance.

Whitlow said people are still unsure of how much of the land has been sold and to whom. The Quintana Roo government has been tight-lipped about the sale because areas

under development are part of Mexico's newest tourist attraction, Mayan Riviera.

While the Quintana Roo government shuts its ears, activists have taken the call to save the turtles world-wide. They want to hit at the root cause: Tourism.

"A travel agent petition is going around and a petition for the general public is being prepared now," Whitlow said. Protests are also being planned in the U.S. cities of Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, and Los Angeles; Mexico City, Mexico; Spain and Colombia.

The beach's possible destruction is one of the most urgent conservation crises in the world for sea turtles, says marine biologist Brian Bowen of the University of Florida, who has studied the X'cabel turtles.

"If the nesting ground is eliminated, 20 per cent of the genetic diversity in Atlantic loggerhead turtles and 22 per cent of the genetic diversity in Atlantic green turtles will be lost forever," he said.

Brown believes turtle-watching, bound to become part of the tourist activities, will destroy the habitat. Bright lights discourage female turtles and disorient hatchlings.

Bowen recalls that a Malaysian beach that was once home to 1,000 turtles a season is now down to one or two. They were frightened away by tourists.

X'cabel (pronounced isk-ka-sel) is also believed to be the most important nesting ground in the Caribbean and Atlantic.

Since only one in every 100 turtle hatchlings survive to reach adulthood and return to their birthplace to reproduce, the increase from 270 nests in 1987 to 536 in 1995 convinced scientists of X'cabel's importance.

Now a slow death could face the green and loggerhead turtles that depend on the solitude of the beach for reproduction.

— Gemini News

Zadie Neufville is a writer and a freelance journalist who has worked in Britain, Holland and Jamaica.

Where they serve a condom with the coffee

With Vietnam's HIV rate becoming the fastest growing in the region Hanoi has been forced to put aside old objections and tackle the problem

By Andrew Perrin

IT COULD have been a mother's meeting anywhere in the world. A group of seven women, accompanied by their young children, sitting around a table discussing work.

But what is different is these women are all prostitutes talking about AIDS and HIV, one of the dangers of their profession.

They are from the notorious Thu-Doc district in Ho Chi Minh City, and nearly all have been in jail during the past 10 years for soliciting and carrying condoms. In the communist world of Vietnam that was as illegal as selling sex. Times have changed.

The fortnightly HIV awareness meeting the women now attend has the support of the authorities that once imprisoned them. The distribution of condoms that occurs at the end of each session is encouraged.

"We are still scared of arrest for selling flower (sex)," says one of the women. "But not scared of having condoms in house."

Support of condom use is evidence of a government trying to come to terms with a disease that for so long it preferred to ignore.

Although the first documented cases were not recorded until 1990 — several years later than the rest of Asia — World Health Organisation (WHO) figures show Vietnam to have the fastest growing HIV and AIDS epidemics in the region.

About 75,000 people are now believed to be infected with HIV in Vietnam — a figure expected to top 300,000 by the year 2000.

The infection rate is spreading beyond the high risk groups of drug addicts and sex workers and into the wider community. Promiscuity is rampant in a country where more than half of the country's 64 million people are under 30 years old.

In an attempt to slow the epidemic and increase awareness, the government has increased the budget for its AIDS awareness campaign from \$50,000 in 1992 to \$5 million this year.

It has also allowed international aid organisations to set up needle-exchange programmes for drug users, condom distrib-

ution centres for prostitutes, and even trendy cafes in the youth-dominated cities of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh. Coffees are served with a condom and a safe sex booklet.

"Vietnam knows it is facing a crisis," said Dr. Laurent Zessler, country programme adviser for UNAIDS.

"The government has seen what happened in Thailand and is aware that the cost of an AIDS epidemic will run into billions of dollars each year and so they have had to admit to problems, or social evils as they call them, that previously they refused to acknowledge existed."

This year, a 32-part soap opera series was screened on national television. The plot revolved around a Vietnamese family which had one member infected by HIV.

The changes in sexual practice have also been dramatic. In 1993, DKT International, a social marketing company and the largest condom suppliers in Vietnam, sold 3.5 million packets of condoms. In 1995, they sold 21 million. They expect the figure to reach 42 million this year, providing the makers of its two best-selling brands can keep up with demand.

Despite the social upheavals of the past few years, Vietnam remains fiercely protective of its patriarchal society. A recent survey of rural women found that 100 per cent admitted their husbands made all decisions on when to have sex and what protection, if any, to use.

The accepted practice of Vietnamese men having more than one sexual partner is also proving a stubborn thorn in the side of AIDS educators, making the world's oldest profession even more risky.

"Many meo come to me and ask to have sex without condom," said one Thu-Doc prostitute. "They say they pay me more for flower without condom. I'm very poor. I cannot say no."

— Gemini News

Andrew Perrin is an Australian freelance journalist who covers South-East Asia. He was a journalist for the Sydney Morning Herald, where he received a Walkley Award, Australian journalism's highest honour, for his investigative work.

Face-lift at Amman bourse looks set to boost trading

By Peter King
Agence France Presse

AMMAN — A package of new regulations for Jordan's stock market coupled with the complete automation of the bourse by the end of the year look set to lift a sluggish emerging market and raise its world profile.

New rules to regulate the disclosure of company information which come into effect Tuesday could triple turnover on the Amman Financial Market (AFM) which currently averages as little as \$2 million to \$3 million a day, said Finance Minister Michel Marto.

"To have disclosure on international standards of accounting and auditing — this is what will build the market, get more people involved," said Marto, former chairman of the Jordan Securities Commission.

Commission which was set up a year ago to regulate and temporarily run the 20-year-old AFM.

He told AFP the regulations, which require companies listed on the AFM to supply company information every three months, "will

give the market a solid foundation in transparency" which will "increase confidence and encourage expansion and growth."

Comprehensive regulations on insider-trading and the behaviour of stockbrokers and financial services companies are also expected soon.

"We don't intend to leave open regulatory loopholes — we intend Jordan to be perceived as a fully and properly regulated marketplace," Marto said.

Meanwhile, plans to begin converting the trading system, currently based on open outcry, to a fully electronic system based on the Paris Bourse and funded by the French government have been delayed from their proposed start date of September.

But the former bourse director insisted that automation of trading in some shares which he hopes will "facilitate foreign capital inflows" would begin by October, suggesting that broker training which has been underway since early this year had delayed the process.

"The change is not easy,"

he said. "It's like going from riding a camel to driving a car."

Indeed, some brokers remain opposed to the change, predicting that the new technology will intimidate local investors who have already been put off trading in recent months due to high interest rates.

Neither does deputy general manager of Pearl Consulting in Amman, Mohammad Abdallah, share Marto's optimism about the new changes at the AFM.

"Simply changing the work environment will not affect the market," said Abdallah who blames a general depression in prices and trading volumes on still potentially explosive situations to the east in Iraq and to the west between Israel and the Palestinians.

"If you don't change the political and economic environment, nothing you do will have much effect," he said.

Marto acknowledged the imperfect regional conditions but insisted that the coming changes, including the delivery of the market to the private sector "a few months

from now," would draw more foreign investors.

International awareness and interest in the AFM grew last year following the lifting of a 50 per cent ceiling on foreign ownership of Jordanian enterprises and the issue of Jordan's first Global Depository Receipt issued in London by the Arab Potash Company. Foreign investment has risen to 43 per cent of market capitalisation (3.5 per cent of which was from non-Arabs) from 36 per cent this time last year (just one per cent of which came from non-Arabs), Marto said.

Marto also sees the imminent privatisation of state-owned companies such as Jordan Telecommunications Company and Jordan Cement Factories Company as "bringing further strength and much needed depth" to a market dominated by single heavyweight player.

Almost half the AFM's \$6.1 billion market capitalisation is located in the shares of blue chip Arab Bank PLC, which is showing increasing command over an otherwise sluggish market.

Jordan's oldest cigarette firm seeks approval for voluntary liquidation

By Mohammad Ben Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Tobacco and Cigarettes Company (JTCC) has called for an extraordinary meeting of its general assembly on Sept. 15 to approve plans to voluntarily liquidate the debt-ridden firm, officials and lawyers said.

Loay Musmar, comptroller of companies at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply, told the Jordan Times Monday JTCC had asked for such a meeting to discuss a decision by its board of directors to voluntarily liquidate Jordan's oldest cigarette manufacturer.

Musmar said the government does not mind holding such a meeting which is scheduled for the Sept. 15. However, workers at the JTCC went on strike yesterday for two hours because the company did not pay their dues for three months-overwork, their salaries for August and their fund interests which was due in June.

Labour Minister Mahdi Farhan said the government supports the workers and will seek all means to ensure they get their payments.

"The JTCC committed itself in a letter displayed on the company's advertisement board to pay all dues to workers before the end of July," said Hassan Awad, head of the Union of Workers in Food and Industry (UWFI).

"The union supports the workers in their demands. Schools are opening its doors nowadays and workers need to furnish their children's basic expenses," said Fathalla Omran, deputy head of UWFI.

Ali Saad, the JTCC's chairman was not available to comment on the issue.

The company's sales were hard hit by the entry of three cigarette manufacturers over the last three years after enjoying decades of monopoly and state protectionism. Musmar said contacts were underway between the company and its creditors — the

Jordan Investment Corporation, the government's investment arm; the Arab Bank and others to try and settle outstanding debts.

The company has refused to detail its overall debts.

The Court of Appeal last

week overruled a Court of First Instance ruling appointing a caretaker to manage the JTCC after the Arab Bank sued the company for defaulting on its JD5.5 million debt to the bank.

JTCC was established in

1931 and has 400 employees on its payroll. It produces different brands of cigarettes including Philadelphia, Philadelphia Express, Gold Star, Top Twenty, Kamal, Reem International, Camel, Gold Coast and Aspen.

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	FRF	ESP
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7647	0.6977	1.4470	141.20	1.5682	1743.18	1.9361	5.9110
DE Mark	0.5687	1.0000	0.3333	0.8205	80.01	0.8844	988.75	1.1291	3.3511
GB Sterling	1.4372	2.9520	1.0000	2.4213	238.08	2.5089	2918.91	3.3323	9.8903
CH Franc	0.6911	1.2180	0.4125	1.0000	77.54	1.0788	1204.85	137.53	4.0819
JP Yen	0.0071	1.2491	0.4232	1.0243	1.00	1.1042	12.35	140.99	4.1839
CA Dollar	0.6414	1.1323	0.3938	0.9304	1.10	1.1182	1.2781	1.2781	3.7987
IT Lira	0.0008	1.0114	0.3425	0.8829	1236.36	0.8941	11.42	11.42	3.3579
NL Guilder	0.0025	0.8854	0.2899	0.7285	70.84	0.7830	875.55	1.0000	2.9685
FR Franc	0.1932	0.2982	0.1010	0.2458	23.36	0.2640	33.57	33.5700	1.0000

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7090	3.7600	0.3770	3.6402	0.3088	3.6728	1617.80	3.4010
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	1.0000	5.2898	0.5317	5.1343	0.4313	5.1803	2140.34	4.7969
Saudi Riyal	0.2668	0.1890	1.0000	0.1005	0.97	0.0815	0.98	404.61	0.9068
Bahraini Dinar	2.65	1.8806	9.8483	1.00	9.86	0.8111	8.74	4025.20	9.0212
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1948	1.0303	1.0303	1.00	0.0840	1.01	416.87	0.9343
Kuwait Dinar	3.2701	2.3185	12.2646	1.2328	11.90	1.00	12.01	4962.39	0.9343
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0212	1.0206	0.9911	0.0833	1.00	413.17	0.9280
Lebanese 1000	0.68	0.4672	2.4715	0.2484	2.3988	0.2018	2.4203	1.0000	2.2412
Egyptian	0.2540	0.2085	1.1028	0.1108	1.0703	0.0899	1.0799	446.19	1.0000

Energy									
Oil	Last	Change	Oil	Last	Change	Oil	Last	Change	Oil
Brent	0.00	0.00	WTI	13.25	13.50	Brent	0.00	0.00	WTI
W. Texas	13.25	13.50	Bonny	12.61	12.09	Dubai	12.61	12.09	UL Gas
Bonny	12.61	12.09	Dubai	12.61	12.09	UL Gas	130.00	130.00	

Mid-East Currencies									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	FRF	ESP
SA Riyal	0.2668	0.1890	0.1005	0.97	0.0815	0.98	404.61	0.9068	3.3511
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.1948	1.0303	1.0303	1.00	0.0840	1.01	416.87	0.9343
KW Dinar	3.2701	2.3185	12.2646	1.2328	11.90	1.00	12.01	4962.39	0.9343
BH Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0212	1.0206	0.9911	0.0833	1.00	413.17	0.9280
CY Pound	1.9232	3.3983	1.1488	2.7824	271.475				

Metal Prices									
Metal	Bid	Offer	Metal	Bid	Offer	Metal	Bid	Offer	Metal
Gold (oz)	276.3	276.8	Silver (oz)	4.69	4.72	Platinum (oz)	388	360	AL (3 Months)
Silver (oz)	4.69	4.72	Platinum (oz)	388	360	AL (3 Months)	1363	1358	CU (3 Months)
Platinum (oz)	388	360	AL (3 Months)	1363	1358	CU (3 Months)	1696	1691	Zinc (3 Months)
AL (3 Months)	1363	1358	CU (3 Months)	1696	1691	Zinc (3 Months)	1025	1029	Lead (3 Months)
CU (3 Months)	1696	1691	Zinc (3 Months)	1025	1029	Lead (3 Months)	637	640	Ni (3 Months)
Zinc (3 Months)	1025	1029	Lead (3 Months)	637	640	Ni (3 Months)	4135	4188	
Lead (3 Months)	637	640	Ni (3 Months)	4135	4188				
Ni (3 Months)	4135	4188							

Main Equity Indices									
Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Cts	High	Low
New York	DOW JONES	7950.6	-101.18	-1.28	8095.45	7933.28	8081.58		
New York	S&P 500	1007.76	-19.39	-1.89	1033.47	1007.23	1027.14		
London	FT-SE 100	5249.4	-119.1	-2.22	5371	5108.7	5388.6		
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	14107.89	192.26	1.38	14224.2	13845.2	13915.6		
Paris	CAC 40	3688.11	-60.86	-1.67	3766.19	3625.02	3708.97		
Frankfurt	DAX	4833.89	-109.65	-2.2	4979.28	4821.2	4993.54		

Energy									
Commodity	Last	Delivery	Commodity	Last	Delivery	Commodity	Last	Delivery	Commodity
Coffee (c/bs)	116.08	Spot	Cocoa (\$/ton)	2007	Spot	Sugar (\$/ton)	234	Spot	Wheat (\$/ton)
Cocoa (\$/ton)	2007	Spot	Sugar (\$/ton)	234	Spot	Wheat (\$/ton)	100	Spot	Soya (c/bs)
Sugar (\$/ton)	234	Spot	Wheat (\$/ton)	100	Spot	Soya (c/bs)	23.89	Spot	Tea (kg/kg)
Wheat (\$/ton)	100	Spot	Soya (c/bs)	23.89	Spot	Tea (kg/kg)	125	Spot	Barley (\$/bsh)
Soya (c/bs)	23.89	Spot	Tea (kg/kg)	125	Spot	Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot	Rice (\$/ton)
Tea (kg/kg)	125	Spot	Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot	Rice (\$/ton)	415	Spot	
Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot	Rice (\$/ton)	415	Spot				
Rice (\$/ton)	415	Spot							

JOD Cross Rates									
Currency	Buy	Sell	Currency	Buy	Sell	Currency	Buy	Sell	Currency
US Dollar	0.708	0.710	GB Sterling	1.1822	1.1881	DE Mark	0.4032	0.4052	CH Franc
GB Sterling	1.1822	1.1881	DE Mark	0.4032	0.4052	CH Franc	0.4926	0.4951	FR Franc
DE Mark	0.4032	0.4052	CH Franc	0.4926	0.4951	FR Franc	0.1203	0.1209	JP Yen
CH Franc	0.4926	0.4951	FR Franc	0.1203	0.1209	JP Yen	0.5	0.5025	NL Guilder
FR Franc	0.1203	0.1209	JP Yen	0.5	0.5025	NL Guilder	0.3573	0.3591	IT Lira
JP Yen	0.5	0.5025	NL Guilder	0.3573	0.3591	IT Lira	0.4084	0.4104	
NL Guilder	0.3573	0.3591	IT Lira	0.4084	0.4104				
IT Lira	0.4084	0.4104							

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

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Iraq said to cut taxes

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iraqi newspaper has said Baghdad is to make tax cuts to curb stagnation resulting from the U.N. embargo.

"Taxes on different sectors of society are to be revised to make them fairer in the light of economic indicators affected by the unjust embargo," Al Musawir Al Arabi, a weekly newspaper quoted Director General of the General Taxation Committee Abdullah Mahmoud Amin as saying.

Amin said one indicator running high is inflation but he gave no figures.

The new measures would allow businessmen, investors and others to expand and develop their activities, Amin said.

LET'S KEEP IT CLEAN

Hotel Inter-Continental Jordan's environment committee organised the second cleanup in the area around the Hotel. Management & staff members participated in the cleanup.

Part of the Hotel's commitment to keep this beautiful country clean, and to keep the staff informed and aware of the environmental issues and methods of protecting the environment, a cleanup spree will take place more frequently and environmental training classes will be held for the staff.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- Post Van Duyn
- Fit for cultivation
- Inc. in the U.K.
- Initiated
- Peninsula near Singapore
- Vain to mine
- Give up in the ring
- Golf-hole starting point
- Gold bars, e.g.
- Roosevelt coin
- Wallach of "The Magnificent Seven"
- Playthings
- North Dakota city
- Commutes
- Roofing piece
- Sauciness
- More nimble
- Greenward
- Fake a loss in the ring
- ID's on jerseys
- Coded message
- Recount
- Consage
- One Osmond
- Bogged down
- Tableland
- Ma. Gardner
- Freshly
- Unruly mob member
- Misdeed
- Out on the canvas in the ring
- Hot diamonds
- Entity's manifestation
- Jason's ship
- S-due mail
- Morise
- Insertions
- Actress Harper

DOWN

- Has significance
- Lazier sister
- See nymphs
- Bother
- With SED, a building-block of life
- Long and lean
- Counterfactors
- Thai currency
- Cautious solutions
- End hunger
- Cattle calls
- Vibrating effect
- Removed from text
- Sound mental faculties
- Chief Norse god
- Long-range rocket: abbr.
- Founded: abbr.
- Faction
- Estate recipient
- Squeal to a halt
- Imaginative
- Bleacher
- See SD
- Schedule info
- Parentally wandering
- River of Venezuela
- Turned clockwise
- Correction spot
- Paying situations
- Camouflaged
- Choiced
- Painter Chagall
- Saying
- Frome
- Prognosticators
- Persia, now
- Love-handles
- constant
- Horse morsel

Peanuts

THE FIRST THING YOU DO IS RAISE YOUR GLASS.

THEN YOU SAY, "I'LL DRINK TO THAT!"

IT TAKES A LITTLE PRACTICE.

Andy Capp

THE FIRST THING YOU DO IS RAISE YOUR GLASS.

THEN YOU SAY, "I'LL DRINK TO THAT!"

IT TAKES A LITTLE PRACTICE.

Mutt'n'Jeff

THE FIRST THING YOU DO IS RAISE YOUR GLASS.

THEN YOU SAY, "I'LL DRINK TO THAT!"

IT TAKES A LITTLE PRACT

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

Studies, surveys show sales at private companies growing double the pace of public firms

**** TO SHOW** that the move towards privatisation did not come out of a vacuum, the head of the privatisation unit at the Prime Ministry indicated that studies and surveys on public sector institutions in the Kingdom have revealed a high degree of inefficiency and surplus staff dominates the state's institutions and companies.

Adel Qudah, the head of the unit, pointed out that studies conducted on 13 state companies and 23 private firms between 1981 and 1990 showed a two per cent rate of return before tax at public sector companies compared to a 6.8 per cent at private firms. He said that the rate of profit between 1986 and 1990 was 5.3 per cent and 21.1 per cent for each of the sectors respectively. In addition, he explained, the number of workers per each JD1 investment was 102 workers at state firms compared to 28 workers at private entities.

Qudah went on to say that studies conducted on a number of industrial companies that were either totally government-owned or largely owned by the state and a number of private-owned companies have proved that sales growth during the 80s was 94 per cent for the first group and 188 per cent for the second group. "The difference is very clear during the 1986-1990 when the growth was 3.5 per cent for state-owned companies and

167 per cent for private firms" Qudah, pointed out.

He gave another example by showing that between 1981 and 1990, the average rate of return before tax was around 3.6 per cent at state enterprises compared to an average of 7.1 per cent at private companies. "The rate has declined at public sector firms during the crisis years to three per cent but went up to 9.2 per cent at private entities," Qudah asserted.

Accordingly, Qudah said, the figures show clearly that the efficiency is high private projects and low at public enterprises which until now continue to post losses year after year and to live on treasury support and loans guaranteed by the treasury. He cited as examples Hammamat Ma'in, Royal Jordanian, Aqaba Railway Corporation and Irbid District Electricity Company.

Qudah added: "Based on this, privatisation was adopted as a policy and means to achieve positive economic objectives, most importantly: the redistribution of wealth, distribution of ownership, breaking the public sector monopoly and boosting productivity and efficiency of available economic assets by endorsing their ownership or management to the private sector" (Al Dustour).

New company to market Jordanians abroad

By Ghadeer Taber
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A new head-hunting company seeking Jordanians for employment in the Gulf may signal the beginning of fresh injections into the Kingdom of badly needed foreign currency, but could also trigger the beginning of a brain drain.

The Kingdom's first such company, Jordan Professional Placement Company, which is 30 per cent owned by the government, will begin operation later this year to market Jordanian professionals in Gulf and Asian countries.

"One of our biggest assets is producing Jordanians with high academic and professional standards," said Royal Jordanian Vice President Samer Majali, who represents the government in setting up the firm. "We will organise and market Jordanians abroad so they can benefit themselves and their country by sending remittances back home."

Jordanians working in the Gulf during the 1980s sent some billions of dollars to their families. But after the 1991 Gulf war, in which Jordan was perceived to have sided with Iraq, many Jordanians were forced to return home after Gulf countries terminated their contracts in reprisal.

While some politicians agree working abroad could be a golden opportunity for generally underpaid government and private sector employees, they say foreign companies will be seeking highly experienced staff leaving behind the less qualified workers.

Others, mainly economists, say sending Jordanians abroad is as feasible a way to help tackle soaring unemployment in the country. Today over 300,000 Jordanians work abroad, mainly in the Gulf, sending home JD1.5 billion annually in remittances.

Majali said the company, with a paid up capital of

JD625,000, will accept curriculum vitae from Jordanians in the public and private sectors and those who are unemployed at a nominal fee but will give preference to professionals.

The information will be stored in a data bank to simplify matching employer with qualified employee.

The company, which will sell 25 per cent of its shares to the public, also has two founding members from Saudi Arabia and Qatar each with JD50,000, which will help the firm penetrate the Gulf markets, company executives said.

"Rather than create new public sector positions

over and above what is already available, the company will try to expatriate staff that are currently employed in the public sector or unemployed to create vacancies for newly qualified graduates or those who are seeking work," Majali said.

He also stressed that a government stake in the company was essential. Others disagree that official involvement is an asset saying that while government regulation may be important to help check abuse in such a business, it should leave the business side solely to the private sector.

"It is not feasible to have the government invest in

every employment office," said one official. A government regulation in the Labour Law stipulates that the government own 30 per cent of such businesses.

Majali disagrees "Besides ensuring there is no abuse, the government will give us access to their employees and lend credibility to the company when it markets workers in any country, especially when dealing with other governments."

Official figures place the unemployment rate at 15 per cent but independent surveys say the figure is closer to 26 per cent.

seeks
tion

931 and has 400 employees
its payroll. It produces dif-
erent brands of cigarettes
cluding Philadelphia, Philadel-
Philadelphia Express, Gold
tar, Top Twenty, Kamel
eem International, Camel
old Coast and Aspen.

TERS
nation

STL	NLG	FRF
1743.16	1.9901	5.8110
988.75	1.1291	3.3811
2918.51	3.3223	9.9903
1204.85	137.83	4.0810
12.36	140.99	4.1810
1118.22	1.2781	3.7987
875.55	11.42	3.3879
33.57	33.6700	2.5688

ADD	LBP	EGP
3.6728	1517.60	3.4010
5.1803	2140.34	4.7989
0.98	404.61	0.9088
9.74	4025.20	0.9212
1.01	416.87	0.9343
12.01	4962.39	0.9343
	413.17	0.9260
2.4203		2.2412
1.0799	446.19	

GBP	CHF	JPY
0.16952	0.38612	37.668
0.16289	0.39428	38.486
1.96656	4.73425	462.107
1.6888	3.84172	374.513
1.1488	2.7824	271.451

Months	Months	Year
3	6	1
5.8250	5.5938	5.5913
7.6250	7.5742	7.3750
8.8328	8.6267	8.6267
3.9000	3.5935	3.6950
1.6133	1.6953	1.6164
3.6905	3.5328	3.6375
5.0480	4.7411	

High	Low	PrC
8096.45	7923.25	5251.68
1033.47	1007.23	1027.14
8371	5165.7	5388.8
14224.2	13645	13915.6
3766.19	3626.22	7702.87
4979.25	4821.2	4953.54

Cross Rates	Buy	Sell
Dollar	0.755	0.710
sterling	1.1222	1.1881
Mark	0.4031	0.4052
Franc	0.4526	0.4651
Franc	0.1203	0.1259
P Yen	0.5	0.5025
Guilder	0.3573	0.3591
Lira	0.4254	0.4104

By Glasbergen



ever finds himself
younger woman.
or woman to be me!

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in the house, you can play it
anytime, anywhere.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1998

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) An old person is watching you like a hawk today, but that's OK. The objective could be a promotion or pay raise. If it's any comfort, the job you're doing now should lead to the best use of your talents. If you're certain that's not the case, it's also a good day to apply for a better job.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Just about anything you start today will turn out well. Go for something so awesome you've been afraid even to think about it. Somebody's watching out for you, helping you achieve your goals; you can consult that person as you decide what you're going to do for, then take the plunge. Don't procrastinate. The time is now.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is a good day for making practical decisions about home and family. It's also a good time to fix things up around your place. Toss out stuff you don't need anymore and get new furnishings. Does that give you any ideas? Yes, it's also a good day to go shopping.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 21) Your partner wants to boss you around, but you're used to it by now. You generally tend to get together with people like that, because you work best in a supportive role. You provide what the other person needs, the other person makes the decisions. That way, you don't get stuck if the decision is the wrong one. Try it again.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You're hard at work today, or at least you should be. That would be in alignment with conditions in effect. If you're pushing yourself to do more than usual, excellent. You could be making a great impression on an older person right now. It looks like you're being watched with a possible promotion in mind. So get busy!

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is an excellent day, and the launch of an excellent week. You won't have to get seriously down to business until Wednesday, so you've got a little more time for fun and games now. And that's exactly what you're in the mood for. Enjoy the time while you can.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is a good day for practical decisions concerning your home or family. If you've been thinking about moving, this is an excellent time to discuss it with the other people involved. You generally like to present your favourite options in the most attractive manner, then let the others make the choices. Go ahead and try that again today.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Conditions are pushing you to success, and some of your friends are doing the same. You're quickly, both from reading the manual and watching an expert. You are also getting a definite boost from your friends and co-workers. There's no point in arguing with conditions like this. You might as well go with the flow.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) The sun is in Virgo, putting pressure on you to perform. You're normally a pretty good performer, but now that's not enough. Luckily, you're getting a shove in the right direction from the other planets, so you could make quite a lot more money soon, if you put on a good performance. Better rehearsal.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You're looking good and should be feeling energetic. Take on something you've always wanted to do but were afraid to try. Skills you learned years ago will give you the edge in a difficult situation. Where others fail, you'll breeze right through. Don't listen to the worriers; they don't have your talents.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is a good day to make practical decisions concerning home or family. You may want to replace something that's outmoded — in the home, of course, not the family. But there could be issue to resolve with a domestic partner, about getting realistic about a goal, then figuring out how to achieve it.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You could learn quite a bit today, possibly from a friend who happens to be an expert at a craft. If you can think of anybody who fits that description, make a point of banging around with him or her today. It'll be fun, not like going back to school.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

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G Publi-Graphics
MIDDLE EAST'S FIRST INDEPENDENT ADVERTISING AGENCY CELEBRATES ITS SILVER JUBILEE
Publi-Graphics, the leading advertising agency in the Middle East, is this year celebrating 25 years of success. The first independent advertising agency to achieve this, Publi-Graphics employs over 340 people in a growing network featuring 18 operations and is unrivalled for its total communications capabilities in the Middle East. It also has offices in Paris, London and Istanbul.
Publi-Graphics plans to make its 25th anniversary with a major celebration event on September 4th at the Meshref Club. Based on invitations only, the evening will be one of entertainment and style. Attendees will include PG executives, clients, members of the diplomatic world, leading political figures, media and partners from around the world.
Founded by Mustafa Assad, Chairman and CEO of Publi-Graphics, the award-winning agency commenced operations in Beirut in 1973—two years before the civil war that was to destroy the old Lebanon.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET														
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SEBESANT														
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179														
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 31/08/1998														
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE					
S 355.500	170.000	ARAB BANK	18.3	.89	61	910	203530	225.00	223.50	1.50-				
2.100	1.620	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	13.5	4.22	9	12150	20179	1.66	1.66	-				
S 3.200	1.090	BANK OF JORDAN	8	0.00	8	6250	6922	1.09	1.09	-				
S 2.680	1.550	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	11.1	6.52	4	1607	2555	1.59	1.59	-				
S 6.510	2.610	THE ROUBING BK.	19.8	3.19	23	10044	31358	3.12	3.13	0.02+				
S 3.450	1.780	JOR. KISLAK BANK	8	0.00	9	4365	7863	1.78	1.81	0.03+				
S 870	1.580	JOR. GULF BANK	8	0.00	2	10900	6422	1.58	1.58	-				
S 4.000	1.690	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.9	0.00	19	10036	17668	1.76	1.75	0.01-				
S 980	1.760	SBIT AL-NOL (BEITNA)	3.7	0.00	2	650	488	1.77	1.75	0.02-				
S 930	1.600	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	7	0.00	78	266652	183679	1.66	1.69	0.03+				
BANK SECTOR TOTALS										INDEX: 295.19	CHNG: -0.44	215	323664	480552
S 3.100	2.700	JORDAN INSURANCE	12.9	5.00	2	2346	7038	3.00	3.00	-				
S 2.310	2.200	UNITED INSURANCE	39.9	0.00	2	2286	5029	2.20	2.20	-				
S 1.350	1.810	ARABIAN SEAS INSUR.	48.1	0.00	1	3850	3388	1.81	1.81	-				
S 2.250	2.140	GENERAL ARAB INSUR.	23.4	3.74	2	535	1145	2.14	2.14	-				
S 4.000	1.380	JERUSALEM INSUR.	9.4	5.80	1	250	345	1.40	1.38	0.02-				
S 2.850	1.740	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	7.6	9.16	4	1315	3580	2.70	2.73	0.03+				
S 2.150	1.080	HOLY LAND INSUR.	8.4	0.00	1	400	448	1.12	1.12	-				
S 2.350	1.800	ARAB LIFE INSUR.	10.7	3.74	2	2000	3880	1.84	1.84	-				
S 1.070	1.070	ARAB UNIV. INTL. INSUR.	10.7	3.74	2	4374	4680	1.07	1.07	-				
S 6.000	3.150	ALNABIA AL-ARAB	51.5	1.43	2	624	2178	3.49	3.49	-				
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS										INDEX: 127.48	CHNG: -0.18	18	17980	31711
S 2.240	1.470	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.9	5.43	10	3683	5608	1.52	1.52	-				
S 1.500	1.830	NATL. PORTFOLIO	13.9	0.00	24	9050	7395	1.83	1.80	0.03-				
S 1.120	1.680	REAL ESTATE INV.	13.9	0.00	24	9050	7395	1.83	1.80	0.03-				
S 4.600	1.880	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	9.9	2.00	6	2800	5600	2.01	2.00	0.01-				
S 1.070	1.890	SARMA EDUCATION	20.5	0.00	2	850	759	1.89	1.89	-				
S 1.830	1.060	UNIFIED CO.	5.1	9.57	24	9500	10802	1.10	1.15	0.05+				
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS										INDEX: 110.01	CHNG: -0.06	68	26283	30445
S 3.900	1.840	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	11.6	5.64	10	17925	35186	1.97	1.95	0.02-				
S 6.500	4.530	ARAB POTASSO CO.	22.2	4.44	8	2700	12150	4.50	4.50	-				
S 11.250	10.050	JOR. PETROL REFINERY	10.3	8.40	9	485	5252	10.61	10.58	0.03-				
S 1.710	1.150	INDUSTRIAL COH. AGR.	69.7	0.00	3	3600	4243	1.18	1.18	-				
S 5.740	2.400	ARAB FERTIL. MANF.	7.4	2.80	37	14068	37510	2.67	2.68	0.01+				
S 5.800	1.120	JOR. CEMENT CO.	5.0	8.62	3	500	580	1.14	1.16	0.02+				
S 2.940	2.450	JORDAN DAIRY	6.1	10.10	1	500	1375	2.65	2.75	0.10+				
S 1.440	1.070	JOR. PIPES MANFCT.	9.1	0.00	3	750	825	1.11	1.10	0.01-				
S 8.540	6.350	ARAB CEREAL DISTR.	7.8	7.14	4	671	4693	7.00	7.00	-				
S 6.350	4.700	DAR ALDUNA OV. INV.	6.9	6.13	3	1000	5711	5.75	5.71	0.04-				
S 2.980	1.730	ARAB ALUM. IND.	12.7	14.53	4	6000	10325	1.80	1.72	0.08-				
S 1.570	1.400	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	13.9	0.00	8	8000	3223	1.40	1.41	0.01+				
S 3.720	1.880	CERAMIC INVESTMENT	15.9	2.87	5	9368	33146	3.67	3.49	0.18-				
S 1.100	1.670	ARAB PAPER CO. IND.	24.4	0.00	2	700	6500	1.67	1.67	-				
S 830	1.390	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	0.00	3	1329	1332	1.40	1.41	0.01+				
S 1.820	1.370	NATIONAL TINTS	9	0.00	1	200	77	1.37	1.35	0.02-				
S 1.580	1.310	ENTERED. PETROL. CHEM.	9	0.00	5	4350	1305	1.31	1.30	0.01-				
S 1.760	1.760	UNIV. CHEM. IND.	8.3	9.88	1	250	203	1.80	1.81	0.01+				
S 2.300	1.700	NATL. CARBIDE WIRE. HFAC	33.8	0.00	9	1650	1191	1.72	1.72	-				
S 1.700	1.390	KAWHAR INVEST.	9	0.00	5	1600	752	1.50	1.47	0.03-				
S 1.400	1.670	UNIV. MOD. TRD.	9.3	12.34	30	18350	10834	1.57	1.58	0.01+				
S 1.940	1.500	JOR. IND. RESOURCES	8.7	8.00	8	2755	2625	1.52	1.53	0.01+				
S 1.600	1.200	NATL. CARBONACE.	8.8	8.00	8	2755	3442	1.25	1.25	-				
S 1.600	1.600	JOR. RES. CARBONACE.	8.7	16.13	17	22148	13587	1.60	1.62	0.02+				
S 1.610	1.150	AL. CRY. REAR. WEAR	42.2	0.00	16	2463	39277	1.20	1.20	-				
S 1.310	1.930	INTL. TOBACCO	6.5	6.24	3	2650	2493	1.93	1.93	-				
S 1.220	1.860	UNION CH. & YEG.	9.6	0.00	4	3226	2837	1.87	1.87	-				
S 1.690	1.690	INDUSTRIAL STEEL IND.	9.3	8.43	3	1700	1406	1.63	1.63	-				
S 1.720	1.580	NAT. ALUMINIUM	32.7	0.00	16	1067	20042	1.66	1.66	-				
S 1.670	1.540	MID. EAST COMPLEX	9.6	0.00	9	5450	2889	1.54	1.53	0.01-				
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS										INDEX: 84.01	CHNG: -1.18	233	202996	257455
GRAND TOTAL										INDEX: 179.48	CHNG: -0.59	534	570923	800174
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 31/08/1998														
#	PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE				
S	1.050	EXPORT & FIN. BKK. 75%	16.5	0.00	5	7930	5147	1.91	1.89	0.02-				
S	1.800	UNION INV.	9	0.00	2	5500	2805	1.91	1.91	-				
S	1.620	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	2	2000	500	1.62	1.62	-				
S	1.010	AL-SHARQ INV. CO.	7	0.00	1	10000	8000	1.01	1.01	-				
S	1.780	AL-DAMLIYAH	23.9	0.00	2	3200	1858	1.59	1.58	0.01-				
S	1.430	ARAB FERTIL. & MED.	36.5	0.00	2	6800	1785	1.29	1.28	0.01-				
S	1.400	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	23.9	0.00	3	1650	380	2.23	2.23	-				
S	1.580	NATL. MOD. ENG. MANICO	9	0.00	10	7000	1960	1.29	1.28	0.01-				
S	1.580	INDUSTRIAL STEEL IND.	9.3	8.43	3	1700	1406	1.63	1.63	-				
S	1.750	UNION TOBACCO 87.5%	10.6	7.49	3	5080	1666	1.67	1.67	-				
S	1.710	RAZI PHARM.	2	0.00	7	13204	7658	1.58	1.58	-				
S	1.350	IND. ENG. MANICO	9.2	0.00	10	20350	4070	2.20	2.20	-				
S	1.340	1. TEKSTILE MANUF.	9	0.00	3	3319	564	1.18	1.17	0.01-				
S	1.950	ADVANCED PHARMA. IND.	9	0.00	9	6400	3559	1.55	1.56	0.01+				
S	1.350	OFFICERS REARING CO.	130	0.00	1	250	90	1.38	1.36	0.02-				
S	1.310	NUTRIDAN	7	0.00	3	3000	2390	1.80	1.78	0.02-				
GRAND TOTAL										74	100978	51655		

↓ New 12 months Low
S Stock dividend during the past 12 months
N Listed during the past 12 months
P/P/E ratio is 100 or more
E Negative P/E
Earning is zero or N/A for the most recent year

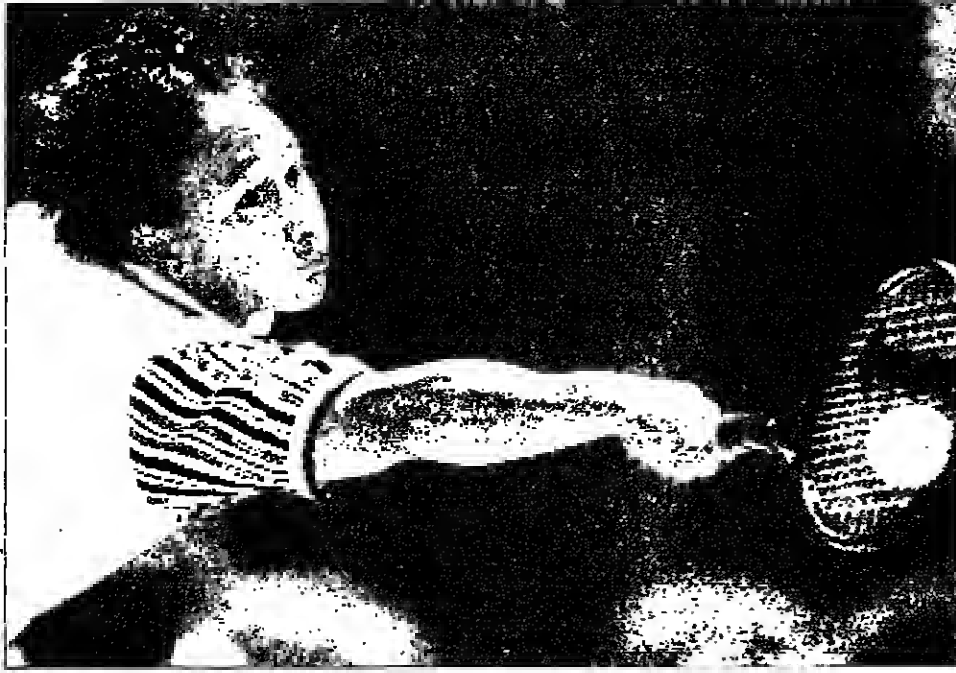
Chang snaps title drought

BOSTON (AFP) — Fourth-seeded American Michael Chang gained much-needed momentum heading into the U.S. Open by claiming his first title in over a year Saturday at the \$315,000 MFS Pro Championships.

Chang broke unseeded Dutchman Paul Haarhuis three times and saved all six break points he faced in a 6-3, 6-4 victory. He collected \$45,000 for winning his 32nd career ATP Tour title and first since the Legg Mason Classic in July 1997.

Chang missed almost two months this year battling knee and wrist injuries. His world ranking dropped to 22nd this week after he started the year ranked third. Earlier this year, he came up short in the finals of the Kroger St. Jude and U.S. Men's Clay Court Championships.

The 26-year-old Chang will face Israeli qualifier Eyal Erlich in his opening-round match at the U.S. Open, which begins Monday in New York. He is



Michael Chang

unseeded after being the second seed last year.

Chang improved to 7-1 lifetime against Haarhuis and 2-0 in hardcourt matches. Chang took their other

previous hardcourt meeting in the final at Indian Wells, California, in 1996.

That also marked the 32-year-old Haarhuis' last appearance in a singles final.

More known for his doubles prowess, Haarhuis has teamed with countryman Jacco Eltingh to win 43 career titles, including this year's French Open and Wimbledon.

'China will apply to host 2008 Olympics'

BEIJING (AFP) — The Chairman of China's Olympic Committee, Wu Shaozu, has said the country will seek to host the 2008 Summer Olympics, a newspaper report on Monday said.

"China is preparing to once again apply to host the Olympic Games," the Tianjin Evening News' Friday edition quoted the official as saying during a visit last week to the northern port city.

"We are aiming for 2008," said Wu, who is also director of the State General Administration of Sports.

In January International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch said China may not be ready yet to bid for another summer Games.

"I was in Shanghai to attend the Chinese national games last October," Samaranch was quoted as saying. "I met President Jiang Zemin. I had a feeling they are not yet ready to bid again. That is my personal impression."

The IOC, which has awarded the 2004 Summer Games to Athens, is due to choose the host for the 2008 Summer Games in 2001.

The Games are expected to go to a country outside of Europe, and an Olympic bid from China may pose a major challenge for Osaka, selected last year as Japan's candidate for the 2008 Games.

Beijing lost its bid for the 2000 Summer Games to Sydney by a narrow margin amid worldwide concern over China's human rights record.

A Hong Kong newspaper earlier this year reported that Beijing planned to propose southern China's Guangdong province, Hong Kong and Macau as the tripartite host for the 2008 Summer Games.



FC Barcelona's new Dutch soccer star Patrick Kluivert poses for photographers at Barcelona's Camp Nou stadium August 31. Kluivert signed a four-year contract with Spanish league champions FC Barcelona after transferring from AC Milan (Reuters photo)

Hat-trick hero Owen wrecks Gullit Newcastle start

LONDON (AFP) — Teenage England sensation Michael Owen scored a stunning 15-minute hat-trick to wreck Ruud Gullit's managerial debut for Newcastle as Liverpool romped to a 4-1 victory at Saint James's Park on Sunday.

Czech international Patrick Berger completed the rout as Liverpool swept to the top of the English Premiership table with a devastating display of attacking football in the first half.

French World Cup star Stephane Guivarc'h, making his debut, scored Newcastle's sole reply.

The 40,000 capacity home crowd had given former Chelsea coach Gullit a rapturous reception when he took to the pitch just before the kick-off.

But silence quickly descended around the stadium as Owen showed why he has become one of the hottest properties in world football when he struck in the 17th, 18th and 32nd minutes.

Guivarc'h had briefly reduced the deficit to 2-1, but moments later Owen was celebrating his hat-trick. Gullit was holding his head in his hands and the Newcastle fans were chanting their favourite song of recent months: "Sack the board. Sack the board."

Liverpool joint manager Roy Evans hailed Owen's stunning performance but said he was getting tired of all the attention that the 18-year-old has been receiving since his sparkling display in France 98.

"The kid is so bloody quick, he's so hard to stop," said Evans. "But this was a day for the team, I keep repeating that it's getting boring."

"Michael could have scored three or four more, he had that many chances, but the other lads wouldn't let him get away with not working for the team, which he does all the time."

Evans added: "I was very pleased with the whole performance. When we did break in the first half we were very decisive. We could have had a few more and it could have been even worse for them."

Newcastle, who narrowly avoided relegation last season, brought in Dutchman Gullit after parting company with Kenny Dalglish in midweek.

The players seemed galvanised by the presence of their new coach as they started the match brightly before Owen struck in dramatic fashion to wreck the welcoming party.

Liverpool captain Paul Ince unleashed a ferocious drive from long range which goalkeeper Shay Given could only parry to Owen who was loitering on the right of the area.

The angle on goal was not promising but the 18-year-old leatherned an unstoppable low drive that squeezed between the Republic of Ireland goalkeeper and the near post.

The gloom that descended on the crowd was deepened within sixty seconds when Steve McManaman found Owen in acres of space on the right.

The England World Cup hero, the world's most expensively rated player who still lives with his parents, impulsively slid the ball between Given's legs for the second.

Guivarc'h, who has not played a competitive match since France's World Cup final triumph over Brazil, threatened a recovery when he slid a shot in off the post.

But Owen ensured there would be nothing for Gullit and Newcastle to celebrate when he completed his hat-trick with a breathtaking individual goal.

Karlheinz Riedle dispossessed Stuart Pearce in the middle of the pitch before Owen used his electric pace to race clear of the Newcastle defence and casually chip a shot over Given with the outside of his right foot.

Newcastle's poorly-organised defence looked in danger of total collapse as Liverpool continued their assault.

Berger, back in favour after a poor campaign last season, made the three points a formality when he fired home a low left-foot shot into the far corner on the stroke of half-time.

Carroll's defection angers Australian head coach

DARWIN (AFP) — Marathon runner Nicky Carroll's late defection from Australia's Commonwealth Games athletics team has angered head coach Chris Wardlaw.

Wardlaw claimed the 26-year-old Carroll, who has withdrawn from the team because of fears of Kuala Lumpur's heat, avoided major championships.

Carroll ran 5km of the marathon at the world championships in Athens last year after succumbing to injury shortly before the team left Australia.

"Personally as a distance coach I was very, very disappointed at Nicky's decision. She would have been a very strong contender in the marathon but Nicky has to speak for herself," Wardlaw said on Monday.

"She apparently felt she wouldn't be able to perform at a championship."

"Apparently she finds it easier to run in non-championship events," he said.

"So be it, that's her decision but in athletic terms it's a very disappointing one because the ultimate challenges are the championships."

Speaking in Darwin where the team is acclimatising before leaving for Kuala Lumpur, Wardlaw said Carroll would not be replaced.

Wardlaw denied that Carroll's withdrawal, injuries to three other stars and a court dispute between two others had left the team in turmoil.

"I personally wouldn't use the word 'turmoil' at all, these sorts of things are very difficult for the people concerned — and it's disappointing that they have happened to our stars — but it doesn't wash over to the team in general," he said.

"Athletics is a very individual sport with everyone concentrating on their own events."

So far world 400m champion Cathy Freeman has withdrawn because of a foot injury.

Both 200m world champion Melinda Gainsford-Taylor and 1994 Games high jump gold medalist Tim Forsyth are also battling injuries.

Now Jordan lashes into Michael Schumacher

LONDON (AFP) — Eddie Jordan took time off from celebrating his team's first ever Formula One success, in Belgium on Sunday, by launching an attack on dual world champion Michael Schumacher on Monday.

The Irishman, who ironically gave Schumacher his first drive in Formula One in the 1991 Belgian Grand Prix before the German was snapped up by the Benetton team, accused Michael of trying to persuade his younger brother Ralf, who drives for the Jordan team, to move to Williams for next season.

"I was not amused by Michael's efforts to tell Ralf to switch teams for next season," Jordan told BBC Radio Five Live.

"Michael accused me of being solely a moneygrabber, and he should be the last person to accuse anyone of that," he added.

Ralf, who finished second behind team leader Damon Hill on Sunday to give the stable their first win in 127 starts but is currently in litigation with Jordan, wanting to leave to join Williams, said that even Sunday's

result would not change his mind.

Schumacher was clearly unhappy about the team orders given out during the race, saying he had planned to try to pass Hill when racing resumed on lap 32.

"But you can't always do what you want to do," he said. "It was a decision by the team, but we could have put ourselves in danger," he admitted.

An emotionless Schumacher said that Hill had been quicker all weekend and deserved the win.

Jordan's outburst completed a controversial weekend for Michael Schumacher, who had alienated many with his reaction to being forced out of the race when he collided with McLaren's Scottish driver David Coulthard.

Coulthard accused Schumacher of behaving "like an animal" after the German tried to have a face to face chat with him in the McLaren garage following their clash.

The Scot spoke out after Schumacher had tried to confront him in the pit lane following the crash, which robbed the German of a

likely victory in his Ferrari.

Coulthard said it was "totally unacceptable" of Schumacher to storm into the McLaren pits and to ask "if I was trying to kill him."

"He was acting like an animal — it is unacceptable."

Schumacher had looked certain of victory and of taking over the leadership of the world championship before the collision.

Preparing to lap Coulthard, he reacted too late when the Scot appeared to try and let him through and smashed into the back of the McLaren.

Schumacher, who accused Coulthard of slowing down, drove his car back to the pits on three wheels, tore off his helmet and set off to try and get to Coulthard, only to be forced back by a crowd of McLaren officials.

Bordeaux remain unbeaten while Barcelona scrape draw

PARIS (AFP) — A goal from leading scorer Sylvain Wiltord made it four wins out of four for French league leaders Bordeaux on Saturday as they beat Metz 3-0, leaving last season's runners-up still looking for their first goal of the campaign.

The two top clubs from last season's Spanish championship failed to sparkle as 10-man Barcelona had several splendid saves by Dutch keeper Ruud Hesp to thank for the 0-0 draw with Racing Santander, while Athletic Bilbao went down 2-0 at Real Zaragoza.

Olympique Marseille, who like Bordeaux had won their first three matches, had their winning streak ended with a scoreless draw away at Le Havre while newly promoted Lorient came from behind to beat Paris Saint Germain at Parc des Princes 2-1.

Wiltord, whose goal kept him at the top of the scorers standings with five goals, struck in the 84th minute after Metz keeper Lionel Letizi had blocked Kaba Diawara's effort to assure the 1996 UEFA Cup finalists of the three points.

He had also been instrumental in their first goal, his strike taking a deflection off Metz defender Sylvain Kastendaeck who was credited with an own goal.

Paris, looking for their third successive win, looked in control after Italian striker Marco Simone slotted home an 11th minute penalty but two goals in a minute, the second a superb freekick by Stefan Pedron which left Bernard Lama stranded, gave the minnows from Brittany a morale boosting first win in the elite league.

Lens, the defending champions, also



Former Dutch soccer international Frank Rijkaard (R) toasts his new assistant Johan Neeskens at the Dutch soccer association's headquarters in Zeist. Rijkaard signed a two-year contract as head coach which will end one day after the European Soccer Championship, being co-hosted by The Netherlands and Belgium in 2000 (Reuters photo)

came from behind against another newly promoted side Nancy as Pascal Nouma scored his second successive double. Veteran Republic of Ireland international Tony Cascarino had opened the score.

Hesp came to the rescue of Barcelona, who have been given the nickname of Bare-Ajax because of the number of players from the 1995 European Cup winners brought to the club by coach Louis van Gaal since he took over at the beginning of last season, when hardman central defender

break.

Despite Tenerife's Yugoslav international Slavisa Jokanovic converting a 52nd minute penalty, the Barcelona-based side held on to give coach Marcelo Bieles, who is the favoured candidate of the Argentine football federation to be the new national coach, a win in his first match in charge.

However, Bieles hit out after the match saying he wanted the matter over his future resolved at the earliest opportunity.

"This situation needs to come to a conclusion as soon as possible, because one day yes I have the job and the next day the Argentine public are told I'm not the man," he said.

"It's up to the Argentine federation to come to a decision and suck by it," he added.

On Saturday former Italian national coach Arrigo Sacchi made a nightmare start to his reign at Atletico Madrid as he watched the 1996 champions slip to a 1-0 defeat at Valencia.

Bilbao only had themselves to blame for their disappointing opening day loss to a Real Zaragoza side that is not slated to be among the title challengers this season.

Bilbao's Argentinian defender Carlos Garcia put past his own keeper after a teasing cross from Paraguayan 'Toro' Acuna in the 66th minute and eight minutes later Zaragoza wrapped up the match when Argentinian Gustavo Lopez converted after fine work by compatriot Kily Gonzalez.

The 1997 champions and European Cup holders Real Madrid, who lost 1-0 to Chelsea in Friday's SuperCup, start their campaign on Monday against newly promoted Villareal.

TODAY AT	PHILADELPHIA 1'	PHILADELPHIA 2'	PLAZA	CONCORD	GALLERIA 1	GALLERIA 2	Heaven Theatre
	Robert Duvall & Tea Leoni...in DEEP IMPACT Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Leonardo Di Caprio...in THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Comedian Adel Imam...in AL ZA'EEM Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 Additional shows Thursday and Friday evenings at 12:30	Jodi Foster...in CONTACT Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:45 CONCORD... UP CLOSE & PERSONAL Shows: 3:30, 5:30 only	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria GODZILLA Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria CITY OF ANGELS Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 Adel Imam...in AL ZA'EEM at 10:30 p.m.	WATCH OUT FOR THE NEW PLAY

Sports

Sam
lates

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Sampras, Rios top latest ATP rankings

PARIS (AFP) — Latest ATP rankings released on Monday:

1. Pete Sampras (USA)	3678 points
2. Marcelo Rios (Chil)	3649
3. Patrick Rafter (Aus)	3577
4. Petr Korda (Cze)	3174
5. Richard Krajicek (Ned)	2720
6. Greg Rusedski (Gbr)	2675
7. Alex Corretja (Spa)	2610
8. Andre Agassi (USA)	2517
9. Karol Kucera (Svk)	2511
10. Carlos Moya (Spa)	2509
11. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Rus)	2338
12. Jonas Bjorkman (Swe)	2337
13. Tim Henman (Gbr)	2286
14. Goran Ivanisevic (Cro)	2062
15. Alberto Berasategui (Spa)	1907
16. Albert Costa (Spa)	1881
17. Cedric Pioline (Fra)	1775
18. Felix Mantilla (Spa)	1752
19. Thomas Enqvist (Swe)	1681
20. Michael Chang (USA)	1562
21. Jan Siemerink (Ned)	1494
22. Mark Philippoussis (Aus)	1468
23. Thomas Muster (Aut)	1381
24. Magnus Gustafsson (Swe)	1376
25. Gustavo Kuerten (Bra)	1348

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Danish star undergoes operation

COPENHAGEN (AFP) — Danish World Cup star Ebbe Sand underwent an operation for testicular cancer on Friday, it was revealed by his club Brondby on Monday, and will miss Denmark's opening Euro 2000 qualifier with Belarus next Saturday. The 26-year-old Sand, who scored with only his third touch after coming on as a substitute in the 4-1 victory over Nigeria in the second round of the World Cup finals, hopes to be back in training in two to three weeks. Danish coach Bo Johansson, who guided the side to the World Cup quarter-finals where they lost 3-2 to Brazil, replaced Sand with the current domestic championship's leading scorer Soren Frederiksen.

Top coach assaults referee

BUCHAREST (AFP) — The future of Ilie Balaci, coach of Romanian first division side Universitatea Craiova, hangs in the balance after he assaulted the referee following their match with Otetul Galati. The former Romanian international playmaker, who had a term coaching in the United Arab Emirates, lost his cool when the referee, Aron Huzar, sent off two of his players during the 1-0 defeat and hit the unfortunate official over the head with a player's boot. Huzar, who said that Balaci later got down on his knees to apologise, suffered a cut eyebrow and several other abrasions which required stitches. The Romanian Football Federation, one of whose members was a witness of the incident, are set to discuss Balaci's punishment in the next few days. The club who hired Balaci at the start of the season currently have just four points from five matches.

William Jones Basketball Tournament Jordan squanders victory over Taipei, meets UAE today

By Samir Janakat in Taiwan and Aileen Bannayan in Amman

JORDAN'S MEN'S basketball team wasted a golden chance to beat Chinese Taipei Monday when they lost 77-72 to the hosts in the final three minutes of their match on the second day of the 21st International William Jones Basketball Tournament currently under-way in Taiwan with 10 teams taking part. Although Jordan led 36-32 lead at half-time and 56-47 midway through the second half, the fouling out of Ashraf Samara and key mistakes by Nasser Bassam cost the team dearly with the lineup already missing four key players who did not join the team following their club's decision to withdraw their national team players citing "bias against the club." Chinese Taipei took the lead in the final three minutes and led 72-70 with a minute remaining. However a turnover led to another three points for the hosts. Hilal Barakat missed a shot as the Chinese scored again to win the match 77-72. Scoring came as follows: Nasser

Bassam 15, Hilal Barakat 14, Ashraf Samara 13, Ayman Du'eis 13, Faisal Nsour and Yousef Zaghloul 6, Mohammad Shamali 5. Jordan is playing in Group 1 alongside Chinese Taipei, UAE, Korea, Malaysia. Group 2 includes Japan, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, the Philippines and Costa Rica. The top two teams in each group will play in the semifinals while the rest will play for 5th-10th places. Jordan was aiming for a win to ensure qualification to the second round as tournament regulations stipulate that the host team qualifies to the semifinals, regardless of its results in the preliminary round. Therefore the Kingdom has to win Group 1 to ensure qualification since taking second place in case Taipei does not take first place will drop Jordan out of contention because Taipei will then qualify with the first placed team. Jordan will next meet the UAE Tuesday and will have to win to avoid elimination. In other matches, Thailand beat Saudi Arabia 70-62 to drive the Saudis out of contention after losing to the

Philippines 78-60, while Japan beat Thailand 79-61. Jordan's referee Mohammad Hourani officiated the Japan Costa Rica match which the former won 76-62. Taipei had scored an 80-56 win over Malaysia in the opening match of the week-long tournament. South Korea beat the UAE 80-65 (47-40) in the other match. In preparation for the tournament, Jordan's team a training camp in Athens during which they played six matches winning two and losing the rest. They also hosted the Iraqi national team winning 93-65 in the first friendly while the second ended in a 79-79 draw after the Iraqis refused to play overtime to determine the winner. The team includes veterans Hilal Barakat and Yousef Zaghloul, in addition to Nasser Bassam, Faisal Nsour, Fadi Saqqa, Mohammad Shamali, Ayman Du'eis and Ashraf Samara. Jan Sahlieh and Kamal Hilou were recalled to the lineup after Ma'an Odeh, Husam Lutfi and Yousef Abu Bakr, Ala' Bilbeisi of Al Jazireh withdrew.

Venus Williams seeks U.S. Open title

NEW YORK (AP) — Venus Williams made more than a little noise with her beads, brassiness and bump with Lina Spilrea at the U.S. Open a year ago. Now she's back hoping to raise the level a notch by capturing her first Grand Slam title. As the U.S. Open began Monday, Williams returns more polished in every way, and has the confidence of several tournament titles behind her. Last year, she seemed to be learning on the run at the Open, assessing how to play big points in big matches, gauging when to rally, when to come in, when to go for hard shots, when to just keep the ball in play. This time around, she's got most of that figured out. "I think my serve is much better," Williams said. "I would say I'm much smarter. I think I play better shots. I make better selections. I know I win matches from my playing well or if I'm not supposed to win." Williams has been bothered much of the summer

by a strained knee, but says it is in pretty good shape right now with the help of rest and regular stretching. At the start of the year, Williams boasted that she would be No. 1 by year's end. That's unlikely now, though her No. 5 seeding is not too shabby for someone playing less than two full years on the tour. "I thought maybe I'd be higher up," she said. "But it's difficult when you're an athlete because you always want to be better. Sometimes you have to be happy where you're at." The women's draw at the Open is perhaps stronger than ever. Steffi Graf showed in Saturday's final victory over Jana Novotna in New Haven that she's ready to challenge for a major title again after a year away from the game. Novotna, though, should not be discounted with her confidence still high after winning Wimbledon. Defending champion Martina Hingis has been in a slump since winning the Australian Open to start the year, but doesn't

seem too worried. She tuned up by playing three tournaments and taking a week off. "It seems like I always get to the semis and finals and can't win the tournament," she said. "But this is a different one, the last Grand Slam of the year. I'll save my energy and go round by round. This year the players became much stronger. You have the younger players, who are more experienced. And the older ones, they started practicing again and they want it back. They won the last two Grand Slams. Right now it's a very big competition." With Graf on the rise, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario still high from her French Open title, Novotna strong and Monica Seles reasserting herself, the "older ones" certainly are looking eager to take the game back from the teens like Hingis, Anna Kournikova, and the Williams sisters.

Then, too, there's the player in the middle who never has won a major, Lindsay Davenport. The 1996 Olympic champion is slimmer and quicker than ever, and the hard courts at the National Tennis Center suit her game perfectly. In the men's draw, defending champion Patrick Rafter is perhaps the hottest player of the summer, followed closely by Andre Agassi. There are dangerous players scattered throughout the seeds, but the one who's No. 1, Pete Sampras, is still the man everyone fears the most. "There's Pete, and then there's the rest of us," Rafter said. "I played well last year, and hopefully I can come in here and do it again if the draw opens up for me. There are a lot of good players who could win it. But all of us know that the player to beat is Pete."



Patrick Rafter

Rafter wins Hamlet Cup

COMMACK, New York (AFP) — Pat Rafter won his final match before beginning defence of his U.S. Open title, downing eighth seed Felix Mantilla 7-6 (7/3), 6-2, Sunday in the final of the \$315,000 Hamlet Cup. The second-seeded Australian improved to 18-2 during the summer hardcourt season with his fifth title of the year, the most by an Australian since John Newcombe won nine and Rod Laver claimed five in 1974. Last year, he went 0-4 in finals before his triumph at Flushing. Rafter earned 45,000 dollars with his third victory over Mantilla in as many meetings as he tied Marcelo Rios for the ATP Tour lead in wins. He also won in India, the Netherlands, Toronto and Cincinnati.

The 25-year-old Australian is seeded third at the U.S. Open, which begins Monday in New York. The last player to parlay a win at the Hamlet into a victory at the final Grand Slam event of the year was Ivan Lendl, who did it in 1985 and 1986. Mantilla was denied his first career hardcourt title. He has won six career singles titles, all on clay. He reached his first career hardcourt final in February, losing to countryman Alex Corretja at the Dubai Tennis Open. Mantilla was attempting to become the second straight Spaniard to win this event, after Carlos Moya beat Rafter in last year's final. In the first set, both players easily held their serves to get to a tiebreak, where Rafter jumped out to a 4-0

lead. He reached set point with a service winner and clinched it when Mantilla netted a backhand passing shot. Rafter took the momentum into the second set, winning the first four games. He had match points in the seventh game, but Mantilla hit an ace, and after Rafter's drop shot, stroked a pair of service winners to force an eighth game. Mantilla saved two more match points but Rafter was not to be denied, hitting a crosscourt forehand volley to close out the match in 78 minutes. Rafter fired 11 aces, won 90 percent of his points on first serve and saved one

break point. He lost his serve just once in 54 service games this week.

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WATCH OUT FOR THE NEW PLAY

Foreign ministers at NAM discuss Sudan-U.S., Congo, nuclear weapons testing issues

DURBAN (AP) — Sudan's foreign minister said Monday that if Washington acknowledged its error in bombing a factory in Khartoum, Sudan was prepared to turn the page.

Washington's attacks on targets in Sudan and Afghanistan — a reprisal for the bombings of two U.S. embassies in Africa — was a hot issue Monday at a summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

A movement committee on Sunday called for an independent investigation of whether the factory hit by U.S. missiles was a chemical weapons plant, as Washington claims, or a pharmaceutical factory, as Sudan maintained.

"We feel that what was passed yesterday was a step forward to introduce justice," Sudanese Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail told The Associated Press.

"We are open to turn the page against the USA if they acknowledge they got wrong information" about the nature of the plant, he said at an earlier news conference.

There was no immediate reaction from the United States' first official observer to the summit, diplomat Princeton Lyman, who stayed away from reporters.

Ismail told AFP his country had secured "almost unanimously" the support of NAM governments for a resolution condemning the August 20 missile attack that destroyed a pharmaceutical company which Washington accused of manufacturing chemical weapons.

"On the Arab level, on the Islamic level, on the NAM level almost unanimously, there is condemnation for this," Ismail said.

The resolution will go before a heads of state summit for adoption later this week.

"This investigation team is needed in order to check if the allegation of the United States against the pharmaceutical company which has been bombed is correct or not," Ismail told AFP.

Ismail said in a newscon-

ference Sudan would not respond with an attack for the bombing of the Khartoum factory, saying his country would reply through forums like the NAM and the United Nations. If necessary, he said Sudan would seek a hearing at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

The movement's 12th summit is pulling together an expected 52 heads of state and representatives of about 100 nations in all.

Heads of state meet Wednesday and Thursday. Formed during the height of

the cold war to fend off domination by the White House and the Kremlin, the movement is now struggling to define a new role.

South African Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, welcoming foreign ministers to the summit, said the NAM should advance the cause of the poor.

"The world economy should be managed in a way that ensures the transfer of resources from those who have them to those that do not," he said, noting that rich countries have no moral

imperative to share their wealth.

"The new god of our world, the market, is not informed by a tablet of commandments on which is inscribed: 'Thou shalt banish poverty in the world.'"

Other summit topics include the war in Congo, in which rebels allegedly supported by Rwanda and Uganda, are fighting President Laurent Kabila's forces, which are being backed by soldiers from Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan planned to meet

at the summit with regional leaders on the Congo crisis. He was expected to arrive Tuesday, officials said. Kabila was not likely to attend.

Ugandan Foreign Minister Eriya Kategaya told a news conference that his country supported a cease-fire in the troubled Central African country and supported peace moves by South African President Nelson Mandela.

He said no Ugandan troops had taken part in fighting around the Congo capital of Kinshasa and insisted there were none there.

"It is an internal matter. It can only be solved by the Congolese people," Kategaya said.

Delegates from India and Pakistan said they hoped to hold bilateral talks on the recent nuclear arms testing by both countries.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Sartag Aziz essentially ruled out any nuclear disarmament unless the dispute over Kashmir, a region claimed by both India and Pakistan, is settled.

"We don't want to engage in a nuclear arms race," Aziz said in an interview. "But for a nuclear stand down, we must deal with the underlying issues."

Indian Foreign Minister Sasundhara Raje said she wanted further talks on a moratorium on building nuclear weapons, and a ban on first-strike use of the weapons.

"I think that at the end of the day, we will be able to work out a solution," she told AP.

Sudan: 'Almost unanimous' condemnation of U.S. attack secured among NAM members

Istanbul's Islamist mayor escapes trial

ANKARA (AFP) — Istanbul's Islamist Mayor Recep. Tayyip Erdogan Monday escaped prosecution over some public remarks when a Turkish prosecutor dropped charges of "inciting religious hatred" against him, the Anatolia news agency said.

The prosecutor in July launched a preliminary probe into Erdogan's 1992 speech at an Istanbul rally at which the latter reportedly praised Islamic law, a crime under predominantly Muslim Turkey's secular constitution. Testifying to the prosecutor two weeks ago, Erdogan, who is seen by many political analysts as the future leader of Turkey's Islamist camp, denied this.

Completing the investigation, the prosecutor ruled that there was no need to open legal proceedings against the mayor, Anatolia said. But Monday's development is not an end for Erdogan's legal problems, as he was already sentenced to a 10-month prison term in May for another public speech in an eastern Turkish town last year.

A state security court in the southeastern city of Diyarbakir then found him guilty of inciting religious hatred by telling a rally:

"Mosques are our garrisons, domes our shields and minarets our bayonets."

If the higher appeal court, which is currently examining Erdogan's objection, upholds the verdict, he will be jailed and deprived of his political rights, under Turkish law.

The pro-Islamic press has denounced the legal charges against 47-year-old Erdogan as a plot to bar him from politics.

Elected to lead Istanbul's municipality in 1994, Erdogan is seen by many people, including non-Islamists, as a successful mayor.

He is a leading member of the pro-Islamic Virtue Party, the largest group in parliament, which was created after the dissolution of the former Welfare Party, another Islamist formation last January.

Welfare ruled Turkey between June 1996 and June 1997, but its leader and the country's first Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan was then forced to resign by the powerful pro-secular military.

The army had accused Erbakan and Welfare of encouraging Islamists. With Welfare's closure, Erbakan was also barred from politics for five years.

Iraq's oil exports likely to decrease — official

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi oil exports under its oil-for-food deal look likely to decrease if spare parts to repair its dilapidated oil industry are further delayed, an Iraqi official said in press remarks published on Monday.

An Iraqi Ministry of Oil official also said that Iraq had exported 125 million barrels under phase four.

"The continuous delay in arrival of spare parts will definitely lead to a decreasing oil production and exports because Iraq is unable to fix defects on its oil installations," the unnamed official was quoted by the Baghdad newspapers as saying.

"Since the beginning of the fourth phase Iraq has exported 125 million barrels of crude oil under 57 contracts with international companies," he said.

Phase four of the oil plan began in June and is expected to end in December.

The oil deal, which went into effect in Dec. 1996, started by allowing Iraq to sell \$2 billion over six months to buy food and medicine to ease suffering under U.N. sanctions imposed after Baghdad's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The Security Council in February voted to raise the amount of oil Iraq could sell to \$5.25 billion but the Baghdad government said its current oil installations can only handle \$4 billion worth of crude exports.

The council had earlier this year approved an amount of \$300 million to be spent under the oil deal to repair Iraq's oil industry which was heavily bombed during the 1991 Gulf war over Kuwait.

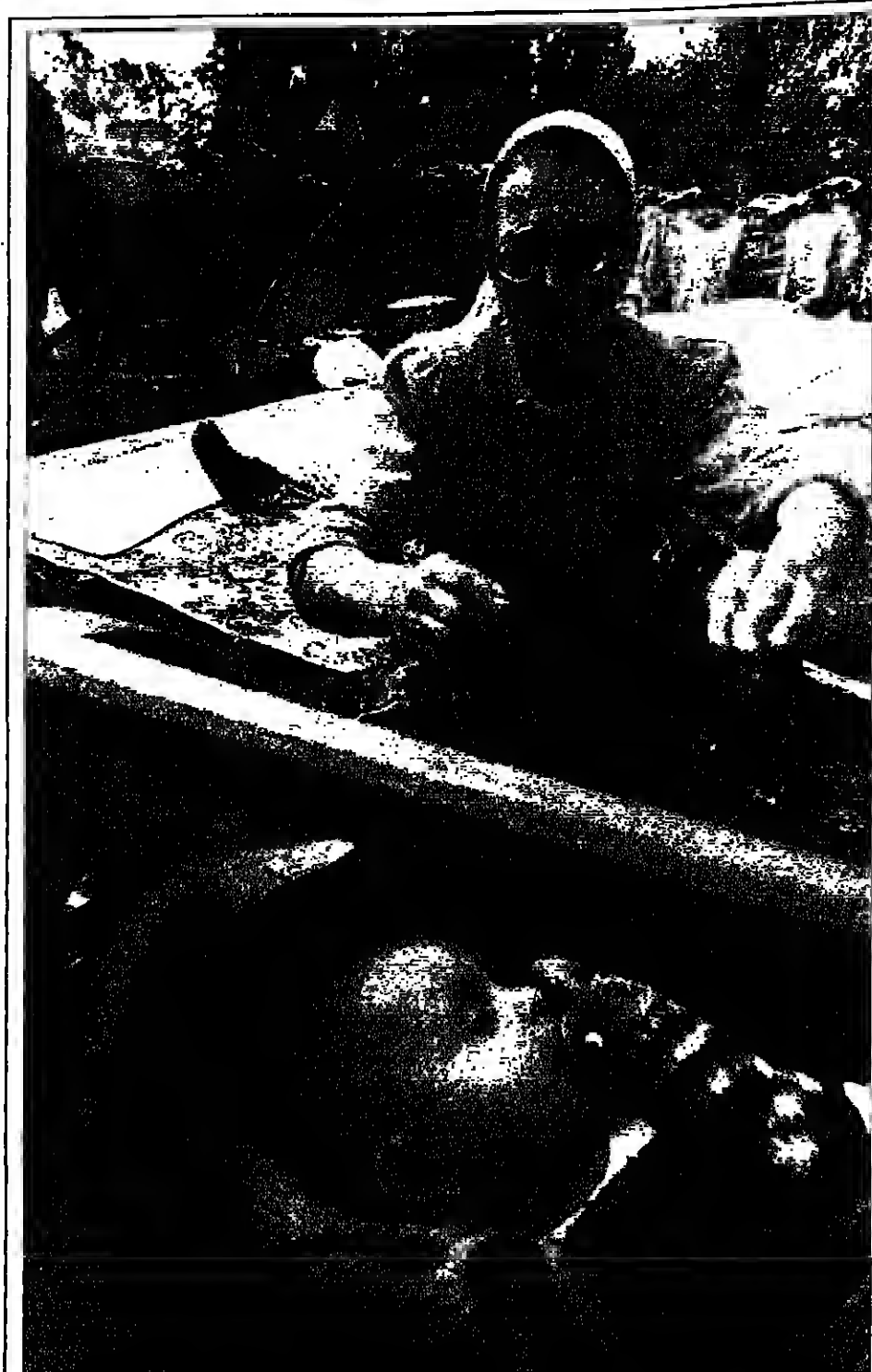
The official said Iraq had concluded 111 contracts worth \$100 million to buy spare parts under the fourth phase of the oil pact but so far it had received nothing.

He accused the U.N. Sanctions Committee of delaying the approval of contracts.

"The Committee 661 has approved only seven contracts and put on hold five others," he said.

The office of the U.N. humanitarian coordinator in Iraq said last week that the committee had approved nine contracts out of 50 received from Iraq.

It said eight contracts were put on hold and 20 others were pending the second day no objection deadline.



WATCHING OVER WITH TEARS: An ethnic Albanian refugee grandmother cries as she takes care of her nephew, Monday in an outdoor refugee camp in Pogarska village. Relief agencies say some 10 per cent of Kosovo's two million people, 90 per cent of whom are ethnic Albanians, have been forced out of their homes and farms by six months of fighting between separatist Kosovo Liberation Army and Serbian forces and could die if they are unable to return home before winter (Reuters photo)

Denktash suggests confederation with Greek Cypriots

NICOSIA (AP) — The leader of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state Monday proposed setting up a confederation of equal states as a way to end the 24-year-old division of this Mediterranean island.

"We propose the establishment of a Cyprus confederation composed of two peoples and two states," Rauf Denktash told a news conference held with Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem.

"The framework of our proposal is open to negotiation," Cem said the offer, a modified version of the Turkish proposal for a two-zone, bi-communal federation, had Turkey's "full-backing." "We hope that the Greek Cypriots will seriously consider the proposal and see it as a last chance for reconciliation," Cem said.

"It is time that they recognize that we are the legal government of the Turkish Cypriots," Denktash told private NTV television without elaborating on the details of the proposed confederation.

"We believe that only this structure will provide for the security of both sides and will safeguard their identity and well-being," Denktash said. "If the Greek Cypriots agree to this

'Only this structure will provide for the security of both sides'

final basis, we are ready to begin negotiations to establish the Cyprus Confederation." Under the offer, the Turkish Cypriot still insists on international recognition but abandons its long opposition to joining the European Union (EU) before Turkey can.

Turkey and Turkish Cypriots have been arguing that EU membership for

Greek Cypriots would amount to unification with Greece, already an EU member.

The Denktash proposal also foresees the establishment of "symmetrical ties" between Greek Cypriots and Greece and between Turkish Cypriots and Turkey.

The offer comes at a time when tension is running high on the island over Greek Cypriot plans to deploy Russian-made S-300 anti-aircraft missiles.

Even while making the peace gesture, Cem reiterated that Turkey would act to protect the Turkish Cypriots' if Greek Cypriots go ahead with the deployment.

"If they bring their death machines to Cyprus, Turkey will do whatever necessary for Turkish Cypriots' security," he said.

Cyprus has been divided in Greek and Turkish sectors since 1974 when Turkey invaded the Mediterranean island following a short-lived coup backed by supporters of union with Greece.

'Posh' Spice meets ex-Spice Geri Halliwell

LONDON (AFP) — Victoria Adams, "Posh Spice" in the Spice Girls band, had dinner in the French Riviera resort of Saint Tropez at the weekend with ex-Spice Geri Halliwell, the Sun reported Monday. It carried a photo of the pair, scotching rumours that Geri and the four remaining members of the girls band were no longer on speaking terms since Geri, alias "Ginger Spice," split from the group in June to seek a solo career.

Prince William the brightest member of royal family

LONDON (AFP) — Prince William, the elder of the two sons of the late Princess Diana and Prince Charles, is the most intelligent member of the royal family, mass circulation daily The Mirror reported Monday, publishing the teenager's exam results. The paper revealed that the 16-year-old prince, who is being educated at Eton, one of England's most prestigious schools, had passed with flying colours in nine subjects at GCSE level, exams normally taken at his age. He had already gained three passes a year earlier.

'Dinosaurs lived side by side'

GENEVA (R) — Dinosaur tracks discovered on a cliff-side in Bolivia show that many species of the creatures that ruled the earth for millions of years lived side by side, according to a Swiss palaeontologist. Christian Meyer of the University of Basel, just back from the site of Cal Orcko near the city of Sucre, told the newspaper Le Matin it was a "dinosaur El Dorado" and probably the world's most important site for their study.

Birkett quits after dealing with 'degenerate tourists'

LONDON (R) — Britain's vice-consul on the Spanish holiday island of Ibiza has quit, saying he was ashamed to be British after dealing with so many "degenerate tourists." "I became so angry at the degrading behaviour and the bad name Britain is getting in Europe, I knew it was time to leave," Michael Birkett told the Mail Sunday. "I have always been proud to be British but these degenerates are dragging us through the mud. The young people are out of control," he said.

Lewinsky's saga could turn into the highest-priced sex story in history

NEW YORK (AP) — Bidding for the Monica Lewinsky story could turn her saga into the highest-priced sex story in history, according to the New York magazine. The magazine reports in its Sept. 7 issue that the Star tabloid sent Lewinsky a one-sentence offer promising "one million dollars for exclusive rights to her story — if and when she should decide to talk publicly." That bid was topped by publisher Harper Collins, which offered \$2 million for a book, the magazine said, citing a source familiar with the offer.

Lyonne realises lifelong dream

NEW YORK (AP) — At age 19, "Slums of Beverly Hills" star Natasha Lyonne has already realised her lifelong dream: a Manhattan apartment. "The only thing I ever wanted is to own a home in New York," Lyonne says in the Sept. 7 People magazine. Lyonne, who began acting on television when she was 6, went on to a role in the TV soap opera "As the World Turns" before making her screen debut in 1986, in "Heartburn."

Popular comedy portrays two Egypts, angers Israel and AUC

By Bassem Mroue
The Associated Press

CAIRO — A hit film that pokes fun at Westernised Egyptians has managed to anger Israel and the American University in Cairo as well as point up deep differences in this Arab country's society.

"Saidi at the American University," tells the story of Khalaf, a bumptious Egyptian who wins a scholarship to study at the university whose students — many from Cairo's upper class — are known for their Americanised attitudes.

The "saidi," the Arabic word for a southern Egyptian, runs into trouble from his first day. Wearing a tie and yellowish suit, he draws giggles from fellow students in casual college dress.

"Did you fall into a mustard jar?" one asks Khalaf.

But audience reaction, as reported in the Cairo press, has turned the tables on the

students' derision — with cheers for Khalaf and boos for his detractors.

Both film and reaction speak to the contrast between upper middle class Cairenes who go to bars and American fast-food restaurants and the vast number of Egyptians who are conservative Muslims.

Khalaf — definitely in the second group — doesn't drink alcohol, speak English to fellow Egyptians, or dance with girls.

In his hometown of Sohag, Khalaf never saw men and women dance together. Some who have seen the film feel that Khalaf is the real Egyptian while the university's students represent an alien culture.

"They are from a different world. They want to imitate everything Western," said Mona Mohammad, a 21-year-old student at a technical university in Cairo.

Whatever the reaction, the film is so popular that tickets must be bought days in advance. Showing at 25 movie theatres,

it made nearly \$600,000 in its first week, very high by Egyptian standards.

Mohammad Hineidy, who plays Khalaf, is said to have doubled his salary per film to \$58,000. Hineidy, 36, is now seen as a rival to Adel Imam, Egypt's top comedian.

And many people in Cairo are singing one of the film's songs, "Casawilouh," an Arabisation of the word "casual" that means "make him dress casual." The song plays as Khalaf, making peace with fellow students, visits one of Cairo's shopping malls to trade his old-fashioned clothes for jeans and polo shirts.

Not everyone is happy with the film.

The American University in Cairo, which was founded in 1919 and sees itself as having educated generations of Egyptian society, sued to stop distribution of the film using its name.

But it withdrew the lawsuit this week after the film-maker said he intended no

harm to the university.

The film's producer, Mohammad Al Adl, was quoted in the press as saying the university refused to allow photos to be taken on campus to help design sets. Some scenes were shot at Cairo's Russian embassy, which looks like AUC's older buildings.

The movie's main scene also angered Israel. It shows an anti-Israeli demonstration on the 50th anniversary of the Jewish state earlier this year. One student organiser is arrested but manages to throw an Israeli flag to Khalaf, who sets it ablaze.

Israeli embassy spokeswoman Ayellet Yehiav said such a film should not be shown "after nearly 20 years of peace and relations," referring to Israel's 1979 peace treaty with Egypt, the first with an Arab state.

"I can only regret the fact that in a film that is supposed to be a comedy, there is a scene that is not funny at all in which they

burn our flag," she said.

The director, Saeed Hamed, has said audiences often applaud and stamp their feet at the flag-burning, reflecting Arab frustration over Israel's stalled peace talks with Palestinians.

"When they burnt the Israeli flag, we began to clap. There was a feeling inside us, I had tears in my eyes because of what is happening in Palestine," said 19-year-old law student Ibrahim Mohammad Talib.

After the protest, Khalaf tells police: "I have nothing to do with demonstrations or politics. But after burning the Israeli flag, I felt relieved." The film ends with Khalaf, who came first in the political science exam, giving a graduation speech.

"When I first came here, I was overwhelmed by America. But after three years," he says, "I would like to say that we don't hate anyone ... but we hate those who call us backward people."

10 Syrians re

NICOSIA (AP) — Cyprus police Monday announced a search for a suspected assassin who registered 200 calls to a telephone number in the 10 days after the 1998 assassination of President Archbishop Makarios III. The police said the suspect was a 30-year-old man who had been in Cyprus since 1996. The police said the suspect was a 30-year-old man who had been in Cyprus since 1996.

Volume 23

In meeting

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AMMAN (AP) — The

King Hussein of Jordan

has been in the capital

of the Hashemite Kingdom

of Jordan since he

returned from a

visit to the United States

last week. The king

will be in the capital

for a few days before

leaving for a

visit to the United

States next week.

The king's visit to

the United States

was part of a

series of visits to

the United States

by the king and

other members of

the Jordanian

royal family.

The king's visit

to the United States

was the first time

that the king has

visited the United

States since 1989.

The king's visit

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was part of a

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